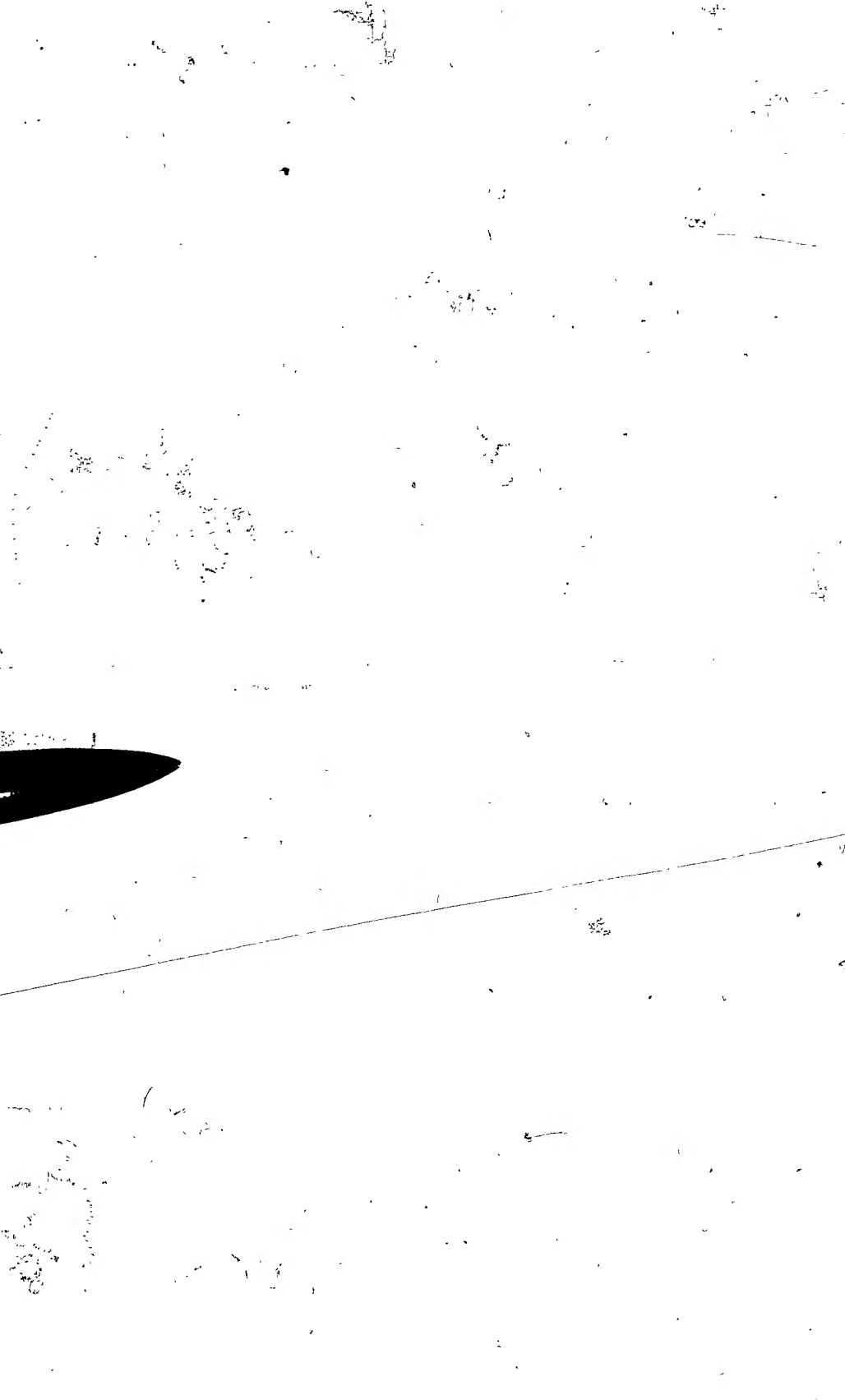


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Remember When ?

**HISTORY OF THE
VIKING DISTRICT**

by
**HERBERT B.
COLLIER**

C
971.23

ONE DOLLAR

C69

"Out Our Way"

In business since Viking was a pup. Have had all ups and downs together with my customers. And we are still plodding along.

I now express my sincerest thanks for your help, your patronage, and your friendship.

And I hope for a continuance of the same.

Faithfully yours

THE L. KELLY HARDWARE

VIKING

— — — ALBERTA

Hennessy's Funeral Home

J. C. HENNESSY

Funeral Director and
Licensed Embalmer

Parlors opposite Community Hall, Viking, Alberta

*We specialize in FLORAL DESIGNS
in both fresh and artificial flowers
for funeral occasions.*



FOREWORD

FOR a long time it was felt that a history of Viking and District should be written and put into book form. This year Mr. H. B. Collier undertook the work, and during the past few months has interviewed scores of early settlers and gathered data on this district even before it was opened up for settlement. From this mass of information, the author has compiled a most valuable and interesting account of the early pioneers, typical incidents relating to their hardships, joys, and activities, which serve as a reminder of "the good old days".

From the year 1900 to 1937 it is an historical document, that will prove most useful throughout the years to come. Great care has been taken to make it as accurate and authentic as possible and to reflect the steady progress of this district. Much credit is due the early settlers for the material supplied, and as Mr. Collier says, "the old-timers have written it themselves."

I congratulate the author on his efforts to preserve the history and growth of this district in such an entertaining style, and am confident it will be warmly received and appreciated by all who have been associated in the development of this progressive community.

H. G. THUNELL,

Mayor of Viking.
1925-1937

249886

To the Pioneers

RESIDENT in Viking for almost a quarter of a century, we have learned to respect you pioneers. Your high ideals, culture and neighborliness have made this district a delightful community.

It has been a pleasure to record the facts you have supplied for this history. Care has been taken to check data and assure reliability.

The costs of publication appall me, nearly \$500. The printer says: "Those jokes will cost about \$100." Then he smiles in appreciation! May you also enjoy the humor as you recall the hardships of pioneer life.

H. B. Collier

History of Viking District

IT IS surprising to learn that as late as 1900 not a settler was here in the Viking District. The Buffalo had vanished. The nomadic Indians who had followed the seasonal movements of the Bison, were forced to hunting and trapping of smaller animals, (or placed on Reserves). Thus the Indian Chas. Whitford and fellow-trappers, making Victoria (Pakan) on the Saskatchewan, their headquarters, covered these "wilds". Whitford told of helping transfer the famous "Victoria" Meteorite from Iron Creek, south-west of Viking, to Victoria, where the Methodist missionary, John McDougall secured it for removal to Toronto. He recalled the time when Lake Thomas was dry and its bed used for pony races by the Indians. Birch Lake was then also dry. Chas. Spence the Indian on the Bishop place, 36-47-12, verified this.

Wild life was abundant; foxes, red and black, coyotes, muskrats, deer and the occasional brown bear. The presence of the bear is attested by Chas. Rice, who in 1902 killed one with the help of Jack Anderson and Hec McLean, near the B. C. Gilpin farm. McLean fired the shotgun which is still owned by Anderson.

Cattle Men

With the turn of the century, the rich grasses attracted cattlemen. Jim Arbuthnot and Andy Carruthers started ranching around the present Geo. Ashwell location, 28-48-12. At the south end of Lake Thomas, in 1901, Harlow H. Thomas erected a log cabin on the hill above the spring. It was 14 by 18 feet with a sod roof. Here he and his son Leonard made their home in 1902. His fine garden was a memorable sight. The lake, in shape like a boot, was named after this early resident. Actual settlement was, however, impossible until after surveys were made and registered. In 1901, township No. 49 was staked, and in 1902 that of No. 48; with Nos. 47, 46 and 45 in 1903. Chas. Rice assisted the engineer Fairchild in 1902, distributing the stakes.

1902

In 1902 we find Jack Anderson, Chas. Rice, Hec. McLean and Chas. McLaughlin leaving Edmonton in May, for their homesteads, all in township No. 49. A whole month was needed for the trip, driving cattle and camping on the way. Rice located on Section 2-49-12; McLean chose the land north of Dillane, 10-49-12; (the home later being the scene of the sad holocaust of the Fred Brown

daughters). On this same section Mr. and Mrs. Bolton homesteaded. Later as Mrs. Leman Bissell, she lived in Viking.

Alex Speers also homesteaded in 1902. He tells of the old Battleford-Edmonton Trail, with its three main ruts, very deep in places. The ox used the centre, and the wheels of the Red River cart the two outer ones. This trail ran just north of the old Collisson Lake, and today forms part of the very road between the gas camp and Viking. Along here also ran the telegraph line, built in 1877, Battleford to Hay Lakes, and on to Edmonton in 1879. (See note page 20).

Wooden Calendar!

B. C. Gilpin, Vern Gilpin, Wm. J. Collisson, Ole Lund and Otto Lund, Roy Brown and Bob Massey arrived in 1902. So did a group from Oklahoma, John Patterson, Mr. Downes, A. F. Mood and Riley Oyster; also Len Newby, Jim Pickering, H. J. Saboe, Wm. Whitten, and the former "Klondiker" Joe Schmidt. Newby bought the Arbuthnot buildings and Gullickson the cattle. Then Gullickson boarded with Newby. The same old cabin is today used for poultry by Geo. Ashwell. You may there behold a most remarkable perpetual "moveable calendar" of the pioneer type. One of the beams was bored, making 31 holes, one for each day of the month, and into these a peg was moved daily!

Wm. McDonald filed on 22-49-12, but did not arrive until 1903. Using two oxen and a Red River cart and travelling via Fort Saskatchewan, the trip from Edmonton over the winding trails was 125 miles (and seemed far longer). Howard Empey came at the same time.

Norwegians

In the Fall of 1902 Nels Hagenson, John Kringen, John Lokken, Carl Boraas and Louis Knepp decided this district suitable for a large group of Scandinavians living in the States. Hagenson and Knepp spent the winter here, while the others returned for their families and equipment. In the Spring of 1903, some 15 carloads of cattle, machinery and effects arrived at Wetaskiwin, the then nearest railway station. In the group, besides the above "scouts" were O. B. Nordstrom, S. Hafso, G. Sorenson, G. Boraas, Carl Olsen, O. Hagenson, O. Kjelland, Ole Sorenson and Ed. Benson.

For the first three months C. Boraas located his family and effects at Camrose, and Nordstrom, Kringen, Lokken and Benson found shelter at Crooked Lake. The women and children cared for the cattle while the men came on to this "wilderness" to hew logs for cabins. Some hauled lumber from Wetaskiwin and made shacks.

Sod Igloo

Those first homes were remarkable. Nels Hagenson for that winter of 1902, dug a shallow excavation, cut poles and made an oval tepee with open top, using hay and sods to cover the outside. This igloo proved quite satisfactory. Nordstrom shared this "home"

with Hagenson for several months in 1903, and now recalls the comfort. The log cabins were so well constructed that even today some of them are still in use.

Sod Homes

There were many sod buildings in the early days. Using a 14-inch plough, sods of that width were rapidly produced to about 2-foot lengths four inches thick, and were laid like brick. Door frames and window casings were hewn from logs and made strong to withstand the great weight of those sods. The roof had a strong ridge pole. Poles sloping from this formed a gable. Over this hay and then sods were carefully placed. One disadvantage was that after very heavy rains, water dripped inside! The floor was usually just "mother earth". These sod homes were easily heated and proved quite comfortable. The first of such shelters in township 47 was erected by Geo. A. Loades.

Freighting

Although Wetaskiwin was a distant town, it was the nearest. Hauling supplies called for a week to a trip, fighting hordes of mosquitoes all the way. No bridges meant fording of many creeks, which at times proved troublesome, for down would go the wagon wheels in soft bottom; off from the gear would float a box unless well fastened. To avoid the wetting of foodstuffs, the driver some-

GREETINGS

To

The Old Timers and the Younger Generation of
Viking and District

"The Quality
Coffee"



"Still the
Best"



"Ensures Baking
Success"

From

BLUE RIBBON LIMITED

Whose Products have been the Favorites in Western Canada for
over half a Century.

times had to unload the wagon, carry the stuff on his shoulder as he waded across, and then reload. On these long lonely trips meeting with a band of Indians caused apprehension, and a prairie fire was a most fearful thing.

Fishing in Wetaskiwin

O. B. Nordstrom recalls the flood at Wetaskiwin and the historic event of people standing on the high wooden sidewalks fishing in the streets! He also recalls the near tragedy when the three daughters of Carl Boraas got lost on the prairie. In the inky darkness of cold October it was a harrowing experience. Large search parties hunted all night to no avail. Next day the faithful buggy horse guided them safely home.

Sawmill

The pioneers were aided greatly by a portable sawmill owned by Ole Lund, with Otto Lund as the steam engineer. The outfit operated chiefly 12 miles north-east of Birch Lake, where tamarac, spruce and birch trees were plentiful. Rough lumber was thus produced. The product of that mill is visible today in the granary of W. A. Walker, and in a portion of the barn owned by E. B. Hummel in Viking. A memorable trip to this sawmill is recalled by Mr. Hummel, when in the winter of 1903-04 he and Will Payton made a journey into the bush. The helplessness of his companion in such unaccustomed surroundings brings a hearty laugh today.

Log Houses

Besides the manufacture of lumber, logs were prepared for the construction of houses and barns. These logs were sawn on two sides, and then trimmed on the other two, groove and tongue, so that they fitted. Moss or clay was used to fill the spaces. Thus a wall smooth on both inside and outside was the result. In some cases this wall was later covered with siding and dressed lumber. A fine example of this good construction is the R. O. Hammer home, north of Bruce. The Berg home is in part of log type. So is the Lars Wollen home. "Such log houses are good for another 100 years" says Hagen Lund. Shingles were not at first available, so the roofs were made of boards with the cracks covered with battens. Most of the lumber used by Lokken, Kringen and Boraas was secured in Wetaskiwin and hauled all that great distance.

1903

In 1903 we find John Jacobs on his homestead; also Dan and Jim Hennessy, Wm. J. Kelly, Walter H. Stevens, (Rice Sheppard drove him here). Stevens and Will Payton were the first settlers in township 48. We also note Ole Sorenson, Ole Hagenson, Jas. Loughlin, Oluf Salverson, H. Cashion, Fred Cotter, J. Harry Cartwright and brothers Ernest and Archie, Martin and Harry Cain, Hec. Thompson. Tom Berg came about Christmas of that year. Ed. Mayrand walked from Edmonton to his homestead in 1903.

The heavy grass of this district was ideal for grazing. So in 1903 Dr. Berry of Fort Saskatchewan sent about 200 head of cattle here under charge of George, Steve, Ern and Sam Swift. This made in all about 600 head of stock on the range.

Mail

The hauling of mail was a problem. At first Wetaskiwin, then the village of Vegreville were the local postal centres. They were a "long" distance away. The Norwegian group had the Tom Thorsen home, north of Bruce as a sort of sub-station. They would take turns each week going there to bring all the mail for the colony at Viking and sending letters at the same time. Later a post office was located by Louis Knepp, east of the present Nordstrom house. The same old log building, now on its last legs, is to be seen there today. It is a historic structure, for it was also the first polling place of the district, and used in the election of Mat McCauley in 1905.

He Named Viking

The name "Viking" was selected by the P.O. Department from among 16 names suggested by the settlers. Gilbert Sorenson was the last of the group to submit his suggestion, "Viking". It was thus the last on the list sent to Ottawa, yet it proved first with the government. "Golden Valley" had been a favorite with others, being the same as the Lutheran Church. Louis Knepp, as official postman of

VIKING DRUG STORE

"In Service for your health"

Our first consideration in business is a reliable prescription service to our customers.

We have a complete record of every prescription filled in the store for the past 25 years.

E. N. STILES,
Manager

"Viking P.O.", made weekly trips to Wetaskiwin (1903-1905), more than 100 miles each way over the winding trails. The railway came out from Edmonton to Vegreville in 1906 and he brought the mail from there. On his death, John Kringen became postmaster. In 1907 mail was handled through Ranfurly, with first Ben Gray, later Ole Lund as mailman.

Gilpin

Mail was also handled by Gilpin Bros. with post office "Gilpin". Some settlers even forty miles east used this. Dick Dinwoodie carried the mail from Beaver Lake (1904) supplying old Vegreville, Dinwoodie (now Lavoy) and then Gilpin as the end of his route. All mail was dumped in a heap and everyone helped himself! Then in 1907 with the coming of Hilliker Bros., the P.O. was opened at Harland, in their store.

Supplies for the early settlers was a problem. Gilpin Bros. and Wm. J. Collisson helped greatly in solving it by keeping a stock of food and merchandise for the convenience of the pioneers. It was said, "they kept all the goods NEEDED by settlers, and some of the things they WANTED". Around Bill's stove some fancy yarns were spun in those days, and even some fancier ones about Bill himself.

Long Firewood!

Bill did not enjoy cutting wood for the stove. So he would drag a log, possibly 15 to 20 feet long, to the pipe or wood heater stove, and insert one end, allowing the rest of the log to lie along the floor, through the door and into the outdoors. Tom Gotobed says he saw it once stuck out through an open window! The whole log was merely shifted to provide more fuel. Of course the room was not so hot while the log held the shop door open. Once when Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hilliker were there, the floor caught fire. Bill languidly arose and applied a little water, expressing no concern over such a situation.

A Vest

It is related that a certain bachelor wore a most remarkable vest. Through years of service it became a veritable history, for upon its glistening front the record of many a meal was written. A very amateur detective could have determined from it the bill-of-fare over a long period.

Non-rising Dough

Among other interesting stories about Bill, one relates to bread-making. Geo. Loades was there one winter morning when dough had been prepared for a baking. A pile of sacks covered it. Bill frequently lifted a corner and took a peek, complaining eventually that it was not rising properly. In the afternoon he became so concerned about this failure to rise that he appealed to George for advice. "You had better knead it again" was suggested. Imagine the

situation when Bill after rolling up his sleeves started to put his fists into it, exclaimed, "My God, it's frozen".

1904

In 1904 we note the arrival of Geo. A. Loades, Jas. A. Craig, and others who have had an active part in the town and district. Also were Lars, Chris, and Ole Wollen, O. Widdal, H. O. Peterson, A. Dahl, the McPherson brothers, Dan, Jack, Andy and Jim, and sister, Mrs. Dave Maxwell, James and Walter Lawes, Andrew Roland, H. S. Jensen, Elmer Reid, A. McGuire, Ray McGee, L. Waggoner, Geo. F. Gould, Tom Moore, Carlson Bros., Ole Benson, T. H. Stowe and sons Jack, Edgar, George and Frank, Thos. L. Sorenson, John Watkins, Nels Hafso, Jas. Airth and children Bill, Mrs. Barker, Dave, Harry, Bob, Kate, Alice and Douglas, Mrs. A. L. McDonald, Will Laverty, C. G. Jones, Fred Bailey, John Monteith, Robert J. Adams, Wm. Link, Mrs. Wm. Whitten, Walter C. Bissell, Ed. Reishus, George Martin, John Barber Sr. and sons Albert and Chas., Alf Tucker, Wm. Child and sons John, Allan, Sydney, Edwin and Harry, Arthur Smith, Dick Dinwoodie, Jas Newby, Ed. Thompson, Carl Knudson, Herman Peterson, Jacob Knudson, Knut Knudson, Rasmus Peterson, Cris Christenson. (This man helped make the "Hamburg" out of Cris Amundson's ox, which hung itself.)

VIKING MEAT MARKET

Adolf Streit

Since 1910 a friend to the farmer, paying highest prices for livestock and poultry.

He made Viking famous as the home of delicious Viking sausage. His long experience in selecting meats, and fair treatment of customers, has established confidence of the public.

Smoked and cured meats are given individual attention, impossible in big plants. And Streit's prices are far lower.

Prairie Fires

The awful destruction caused by prairie fires is described by the Wollen brothers as well as many others. For a hundred miles or more north and south one would roar through here between the Battle and the Saskatchewan rivers, unchecked, consuming barns, houses and fodder in its furious rush, and destroying all pasture. Ploughing of fire guards was a duty at every farm, many acres of land being thus treated for protective purposes only. On both sides of the railway, strips a rod or more in width were ploughed to prevent fires from the engines. Besides fire guards, wise farmers also took further safety measures by keeping barrels of water near the buildings.

One particularly destructive fire started west of town through carelessness of the railway. Lars Wollen, Gilbert Sorenson and others were busy haying, already having made large stacks northwest of town. A great loss followed. Mr. Sorenson almost lost his life in an endeavor to save his oxen. After a great wall of fire had passed, he was found crawling along the ground, blinded and half conscious. It required months for him to recover from the terrible experience. Whereas the railway was fined \$80, no compensation was awarded the victims of the fire.

Another fire about that same time of September 1909, was a disastrous one for those living south of the Grand Trunk. Heavy smoke filled the air all day giving ample warning of the approach of the dreaded flames. Settlers rushed about frantically endeavoring to protect stock and property. To even live in the choking fumes, they were forced to crawl along the ground at times. Many started back-fires, thereby producing a hundred new fires. At the town volunteers stood guard north of the track. As the wall of flame 50 feet high swept up, wisps of blazing grass jumped the track to fall among the firefighters, who quickly extinguished them.

Men bailing hay north of Bruce carelessly started a fire in 1918. It soon reached alarming proportions. The Mountie sent out a call for "every man" and the big fight was on. Several ploughing outfits rushed around to turn over fresh sod, while men back-fired from this, and when ample space was burned, beat out the flames with sacks. Though many stacks of hay were thus saved, Henry Bender lost 100 tons, and many others suffered great loss.

In 1921 the last great prairie fire swooped down from the west to the edge of Viking. Back-firing was done from the road and on the Skalitzy farm. The several hundred workers, using wet sacks to control these fires, were treated to a dramatic sight as the flames rushed up with fury to their barrier, and there died. The village was saved thereby.

More Water Than Land

In early days the prairie grass was one to three feet high, due to the presence of so much water. Jim Hennessy says one could stand

on any hill and in all directions see apparently far more water than land. The creek that ran between the school and the creamery, was at times unfordable, for the horses would go down over their heads. H. A. Meredith claims that in a small boat it was possible to travel from Edmonton to Amor Long's farm on Lake Alice with but a few small portages. E. B. Hummel recalls seeing the remains of fair-sized fish in Birch Lake, and Harry Cartwright saw shoals of minnows there in the early days. These facts indicate a proportion of fresh water at one time sufficient to allow fish to live in this lake. Today it seems hard to believe there were such quantities of water but the conditions described by Whitford when Lake Thomas was dry leads one to conclude there are weather cycles. Proof is offered further in this: Trees at Birch Lake a foot in diameter (which must have grown on dry land) became submerged some 12 to 14 feet and were then cut by the early settlers in winter at the level of the ice. Today those tall stumps are again perfectly dry. Clem Loughlin recently seeded a slough that a few years ago held water to a depth of some 14 feet.

Will Brickman noted poplar trees of great size, 18 to 24 inches in diameter, in his lake near Phillips. Marks of alkali on these trees showed a depth of water at one time of fully 20 feet. Then, 25 years ago the depth was about 14 feet, and today it is not four feet.

NO HISTORY IN WESTERN CANADA WOULD BE
COMPLETE WITHOUT SOME MENTION OF

OGILVIE

Made in the West

By the West

For the West

Since the West began

Congratulations



Handled in Viking

by Hilliker Bros.

for twenty-five years.

Ask them why?

Viking

**Royal Household Flour or
Ogilvie Oats**

How long is this cycle of dry-to-wet-to-dry? With the low precipitation of recent years, the answer would be welcome.

1905

In 1905 we see two men walking from Edmonton to Viking over the long trail of 125 miles. They were Jim Finnemore and John Theaker. It took them three days. Also in that year came Frank Mitchell, J. and Tony Mackey, D. McLaughlin, Wm. Oveldson, H. Dornan, Jas. Thompson and sons Scott and Tom W., Chas. Whitmore, Jas. Pobuda, Joe Mezera, John Tymich, Wm. Holbrook, Vic. H. Holbrook, Jos. A. Dobry, Sydney Stowe, Ben Gray, Tom Gotobed, S. A. Place, Louis Catlin, John Bonnell, Dave Maxwell, Hans Hanson, Kaare Hoyem, W. C. Burgess, Mrs. A. E. Francis, M. Cummings, Wm. Hodgins, Albert T. Gilpin, I. J. Russell, Olaf Halverson, Sievert S. Hafso, Bert Iverson, Leman Bissell, E. A. Brickman, Joseph, Roger and Will Brickman.

1906

In 1906 came several men who have played a very important part in the life of the district: Basil Hilliker, Howard Hilliker, Amor Long, Andrew Holmberg, Solomon Stenberg and sons Albin, Helmer, Fred and Roy, Alex. McLaren, Fred Ross, Walter J. Jones and sons Evan, Steve and Percy, Fred Hanson, Carl Almgren, Wm. Havens, George Gould, Councilman brothers Charles, John, Claude and Harms, U. S. Stauffer, Herb and Chas. Bissell and father Luther Bissell, A. McGuire, Mrs. J. Barber (Sr.), John Barber (Jr.), Mrs. W. H. Sheets, Henry Barber, Fred Cottrell, Ben M. Richardson, I. Britton, Frank Gossman and son Lawrence, George and James Young, John McArthur and children John D., Mrs. Harvey Setzer, Mrs. Wm. Welby, Pete and Mrs. Reay, Louis Lentz, Milton Clement, Hilton Hodgins (born here in 1906), Donald Downie, Jake Sutter, Robert Ash, Nick and Mat Klontz, Jos. H. Hooper, Rev. H. T. Egedahl, J. P. Bjorkman, Andrew Maloney, Merton Canfield, Pete Nyhus, Jas. Crawford, wife and son Jack, Emil A. Nelson, John E. Ash, Andrew Knudson, Peter Knudson, Clarence Holmberg, J. Downie.

1907

In 1907 these names appear on the roll: Clark Leitch, Chas. Stevens, Wm. Atchison, Fred Thoresen, Malcolm Maxwell, A. A. Burnham, John S. Roddick, Robert H. Roddick, Pete Kjelland, Carl Swanson, James Barker, Dr. G. E. Story, Lar Kelly, L. F. Pail, Frank Bentley, Ole Ohman, Tom Fraser, Jack Poole, Mrs. Olaf Salverson, John Stewart, Cornelius Powell.

1908

In 1908: Wm. Arnett, Tom Ryan, Dan Gallagher, Tollaak Hafso, Jas. Richardson and wife and Ed., Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hajek and Mr. and Mrs. J. Hajek, Robert Cormack and son Bert, Tom Cormack.

1909

In 1909: John Lefsrud, A. G. Thunell, Jim Hoskins, Tom Hoskins, Tom Swift, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Campbell, J. Rozmahel and sons Frank and John, John Kudlacek, Bob and James Sinclair (here before the steel on the G.T.P.), Cris Shea, Mrs. W. C. Burgess, Archie Sprague, Mat O'Donnell, John Duncan, Fred Brown, Mrs. Luther Bissell.

1910

In 1910: Wm. J. Lee, Ira Prichard, John J. Skalitzky, A. Streit, Max Stenger, Percy Main, Norman Main, Geo. and Mrs. Hoskins, Clyde Hoskins, J. L. Dodds, H. E. Gares, Cris P. Amundson, Frank Stupka, A. B. Crouse, Wm. F. Goodwin, Mrs. Donald Downie, Pete Wangsness, Geo. Ashwell, Wm. McAthey, Andrew Hammer, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Scott and daughters (now Mrs. R. O. Larsen and Mrs. J. D. Elliott), Chas. Irwin, W. G. Murray.

1911:

In 1911: V. J. Slavik and sons Frank, John and Jim, W. A. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. T. Arthur Cox, Roy Keller, Helmer Pederson, Wm. J. Dillane and sons Perry and Roy, Byron Bishop, R. K. Kennedy and son David, Chas. Broughton, Wm. Taylor and sons Will, James and George, Alphonse Lentz, John and Ed Klontz, Frank

Marching Forward With the West!

A Half-Century of Service to Pioneer and Modern

WE TAKE an especial pleasure in this opportunity of congratulating the citizens of the Viking District on the progress you have made since that day when your earliest settler first struck the nose of his plow into your fertile soil.

For we, too, can look back on a history of which we are pardonably proud. It was more than 50 years ago—in 1884—that **T. EATON CO.**—even then a flourishing retail organization in the City of Toronto—issued its first Mail Order Catalogue. From that day forward it has been our privilege to serve the pioneer, the dweller in the outposts of civilization and the modern rural resident—bringing to them, through the pages of our great Catalogues—"The Price Guide of the West"—all that has been and is needful for the farm, the home, the person. This has been our contribution to the magical development of all the West, including your own smiling territory.

We salute you! May you long continue in the well-being that has distinguished every step of your progress so far! May we long continue to enjoy our pleasant association with you!

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED
CANADA

Richardson, W. H. Wallace and MacGregor, Mrs. Fred Cottrell, C. W. McBride, J. L. Horton and son Arthur, Wm. Garvie, H. E. Hanson, Herb Cooper.

1912

In 1912: Wm. Small and sons Jack, Reg and Arthur, Wm. Bucek, Wm. Lee, Henry Ovens, H. T. Haydon, Ab. Gould.

1913

In 1913: D. A. Farquharson, Frank Svobuda, Bud Evans, Mrs. Wm. Moderwell, Bill and Harry Casey, Angus Ross, Eilert Solstad.

1914

In 1914: Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Green (he worked on the "Discovery" gas well No. 1). Fred Thompson, J. J. Dobry, V. A. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sparling, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Somersall, A. D. Anderson, W. J. Harris and Roy, R. E. Westbrook.

1915

In 1915: Ed. Featherstone, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Collier, Jack, Edward and David Leith, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph R. Kiefer, D. G. Harris, Tom Mercier.

1916

In 1916: Mike and Adolf Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Collier, Mrs. W. J. Harris, Raymond, Jean, Rowena, Alma and Gladys.

1917

In 1917: Joe Phillips, Andrew Tovarud, S. H. Brooke.

Settlers evidently selected their homesteads with an eye to congenial neighbors. To the north of Viking a Norwegian settlement was formed, and further north one from Lucan, Ontario. South-west of Viking the Czechoslovakians took land together. South of Viking, English families settled, and near Phillips we had a group from Belleville and the Bay of Quinte. The name "Quinte School" evidently had its origin in Ontario.

Czecho-Slovakians

Among our most respected farmers today are some forty or more families of Czecho-Slovakian extraction. The first of this fine group came into the Prague district in 1904, from Prague, Oklahoma. They were John W. Ruzicka and sons John W., William W., Joseph J., Edward F., John G. H., and Charles O. Also were John Merta, wife, and sons Frank and Wesley, John Barta and son Frank, Frank Klatzuba, Frank Bohac, John J. Schuller, Joe Pail and son Joe.

In 1905 came John Tymich, Nick and Mat Klontz, Louis Lentz, Fred Waltz, and Joseph Dobry with wife and children. The next year brought Joseph Kowalski and family, James Pobuda, his wife and two children, and John Mezera.

Viking Co-operative Creamery

Born July 17th, 1909

First Officers were: President, John E. Kringen; Vice-President, Geo. A. Loades; Secretary, Jas. C. Barker. Directors: Dan Gallagher, Fred Thoresen, T. T. Berg, John Barber Sr., Jas. Barnes, Fred A. Brown, Jas. Lawes, W. J. Jones.



JOHN J. SKALITZKY,
Manager and Salesman

By fair treatment of patrons and stockholders, the output of 17,200 pounds in a season nearly thirty years ago, has risen to three-quarters of a million pounds. Butter is sold on highest market, expenses deducted, and at end of year, the surplus is divided among those who supplied the cream. Holders of stock received six and eight per cent at the same time.

We appreciate the patronage of our many Producers, and can take care of as many more. If you are not already a

patron of the Viking Creamery, why not become one? A total of over \$3,000,000 has been distributed in the district.

Present Board of Directors: President, G. A. Loades; Vice-President, L. O. Wollen; F. Brown, D. Gallagher, John Child, I. Prichard, John Rozmahel, A. A. Burnham, T. Berg, Jr., Hans Hanson; Secretary-Treasurer, H. Rollans.

Then these enterprising settlers built a school, and on the assurance of Father Kulavi of Edmonton that they would be given the services of a priest, they erected a little chapel. The first trustees of Prague School were H. O. Peterson, W. J. Ruzicka and O. Widdal. This first school was razed by fire in 1910. This was a misfortune to the early settlers, but proved fortunate to Herman Caldwell of Killam. At the time he was greatly concerned over the welfare of the school-mistress, Miss Morris. A lot of cold winter driving appeared in prospect. With the loss of the school, he secured the teacher for a life partner.

Out of the Prague School have come a notable list of professional men, nurses, sisters, teachers and three doctors. The people have proven to be superior citizens in many respects, law-abiding, God-fearing, and industrious. The Police were never required among these people.

Wesley Merta with the help of the settlers constructed the chapel. Though the visits of the priest were infrequent, the people attended regularly and conducted the service themselves. This consisted of prayers, the reading of the Sunday gospel, and the singing of hymns. This church was burned in 1910. In 1911 Father Steinmetz located in Viking, and since that time Prague has been regularly served by the resident priest. The priests who have served are recalled: Fathers Kulavi, Schulte, Teck, Walravens, Van Witten, Steinmetz, Koolens, Rockwood and O'Neill.

Wetaskiwin was the first trading post and mail depot. Later the Post Office was Wavy Lake, at the homes successively of Gordon Reeves, John Rozmahel and W. Merta. Then Viking became the business centre and post office. The first threshing outfit was owned by Wm. Holbrook, who pulled it into the district in 1906.

In 1909 a disastrous fire swept through the district. From a Mounted Police camp near Sedgewick it broke out of control in a strong wind and destroyed many farm buildings as well as farm equipment, hay and feed.

The earliest telephone line in the district was built to connect the homes of J. Dobry and W. J. Ruzicka, using the barbed wire fence to convey the conversations!

Iron Creek which passes through the Prague District, drains the land from a few miles west of Viking, and empties into the Battle River near Hardisty; then going on to the North Saskatchewan River at Battleford. In former days this waterway was used by the Indians. Along the banks are many evidences of their habitation, in the Indian graves and other relics. Even today fish of large size, pike and suckers in season particularly, frequent this creek. These would naturally attract the nomadic tribes. The Buffalo left marks of their visits, in trails and great wallows. Beavers also were active, producing dams which still remain as evidence of their ingenuity and industry.

1909: John Rozmahel, wife, three sons and two daughters and John Kudlacek, wife and daughter Frances came to the district; 1910: Frank Stupka came for a time, but returned to the States for his wife; 1911: V. J. Slavik and family, also Jake Kinzer and family; 1912: Frank Svobuda, wife and children and Wm. Bucek; 1914: John Hruza and Frances; 1915: John Golka, wife and children; 1920: Leo Lonowski and Frank Mazonkowski, wife and children; 1923: John Pratt, wife and family; 1927: Louis and Frank Petrzelka; 1928: Louis Néchvatal and wife; 1929: Louis Petras and Miss Frances, later Mrs. Frank Long.

Fancy Prices

As settlers increased with the years, stores opened at Harland and Viking. Harland was over near Streit's buildings, and Viking was up on the old golf ground, just east of the Hospital. Even today the old cellars show in part. Rivalry was keen and comical between these two hamlets. When in 1908 the railway determined the present location of Viking, there was a lively scramble for lots. Land that was worth but \$10 an acre was sold by the railway at fancy prices. Some of the lots were priced at \$750 for but 25 feet. A corner location such as Hilliker's was over \$1,400; and it was stated that W. L. Campbell paid \$2,000 for his corner lots.

Harland Unites

Then followed the big job of moving houses and stores to the new site. At Harland was Hilliker Bros.' store (two buildings), Mrs. A. MacDonald's restaurant, McDougall's blacksmith shop, Hawthorne's store, Alberta Lumber, Hennessy & Kelly Hardware, Dr. Playfair's office, and Bill Watson's. At "old" Viking were Clark's hardware, Ross' blacksmith shop, Tom Fraser's barber shop, Clark's Hall (remember the masquerade ball here on St. Valentine's Day in 1908, when his best girl did not know Gilbert Sorenson in his unique costume?), Tom Thoresen's store, and houses of E. B. Hummel, Dr. Story, Eugene Clark, Ole Lund, Jas. Barker and Wm. J. Collisson.

The Old Buildings

The present location of these buildings is very interesting. The James Barker home was the first house to be moved to the new site, and is still occupied by the family. The Hummel office now forms part of the Viking News plant. The Tom Thoresen store which had been the first building erected at old Viking, July 1906, became the residence of the Lutheran minister, (now Rev. I. Saugen). It was rejuvenated in 1936, stuccoed, and looks good for another third of a century. The Ole Lund house was moved to the site of Tom Hoskin's house, and later when occupied by L. R. Dayton, was burned. The Hummel house is today the Hummel home with additions. The Clark house became the Skalitzy-McPherson home and now Them Kjar's. The Clark Hall became the Royal Cafe and vanished in the

big fire of 1935. The Clark store is today the middle portion of the Graham Hardware. The Dr. Story house is the Kastor home today. It should be noted here that all the lumber for this house, much of it solid oak, was shipped from Kingston, Ontario, and hauled over the prairie from Killam station. And the shack of bachelor Bill Collisson is now on Hanson's farm.

Ox Power

The moving of the Harland buildings was a big job. Deacon Jones managed the transfer of the Hilliker buildings. Ten yoke of oxen supplied the motive power. Business was carried on as usual, with slight interruptions! One building formed, with alterations, a home for Basil Hilliker, and the other became the first print shop in Viking. It went up in smoke in 1912. The Hennessy building is now Dan Gallagher's house.

The site of the town having been determined by the Railway, a name was also chosen by them, "Meighen". This name met with no favor here, as no one seemed willing to start under a handicap of "mean". The contest was between the names "Viking" and "Harland", and ended in victory for the former, through the assistance of the Alberta government.

First Wedding

Then as the Village of Viking began life, the records show that Fred G. Ross and Miss Carrie Lund were the first to marry, the



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HEAD OFFICE



MONTREAL

wedding taking place in 1908. The hotel built in 1909 by Mr. Peacock, saw an interesting event in 1910 in the marriage there of Neil McEachern and Miss Seamans.

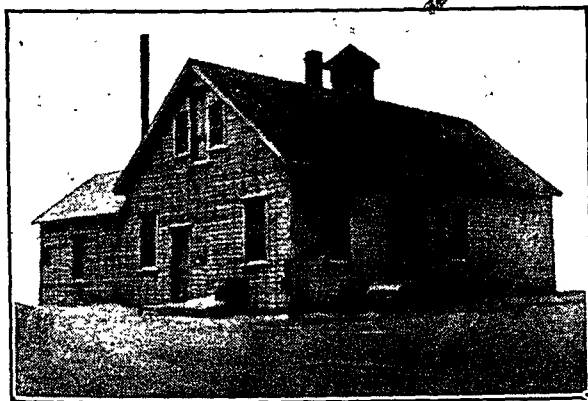
Steers, a Ton Each

In the early days cattle were grown profitably. Some of the "Silver-haired daddies of today had to swing the lariat and boot the pony then. Sam Swift and Evan Jones, among others, participated in the famous roundup of the Gullickson cattle in 1906. There were steers six years of age and over a ton in weight. They were wild and fierce. No one dared dismount near them. Even on horseback, an attack called for lively movement to avoid a belligerent steer. One huge bull, with three lariats on him, pulled the three horses along like chips on strings. Even when he was in the corral he nosed under the projecting logs of the barn and tipped the whole structure to regain his freedom.

Nels Hagenson was an expert with the lariat. It is related that he had overtaken coyotes and captured them by rope from his seat on the pony. As an expert cowboy he proved of great help in this roundup. Ole Hagenson also had quite a reputation as a cowboy.

Viking Creamery

Of course cattle have ever been a main feature of farming here. Profits to the milkmaid were promised by Fred Stenberg and associates in 1909 when the Co-operative Creamery was organized. The Government went to the aid of the farmers, installing the machinery after the farmers had erected a building and showed 400 cows subscribed. Shares sold at \$1.00 each for some 3,000 issued, to patrons, in proportion to butter fat supplied. The machinery cost the farmers \$1,480, which was repaid to the government at one cent per pound



The First Unit of Viking Creamery, 1909

of butter made. In 1910, with the coming of J. J. Skalitzy, efficient management, plus hard work, placed the creamery eventually on a firm basis. In competition with the best in the west, Viking carried off the medals year after year. The advantages of the

Creamery to the district are beyond calculation. Hundreds of farmers survived the depression through this cash-distributing business. Though paying daily the market price, or better, for the butter fat,

at the end of each year the earnings were distributed among the producers while at the same time the shareholders received their dividends of six and eight per cent.

Up to 1936 the amazing sum of \$125,000 had thus been distributed. In 1936 a further sum of \$17,000 was handed out as "Christmas presents" under the above system. From Tofield to the Saskatchewan boundry, cream is shipped here by express daily. In 1936, over 11,000 cans of cream were thus received. In 1937 this number was greatly increased. So it would appear that the Viking Creamery thus serves a very large district. In 1910 in the first two months, 2,000 pounds of butter were produced. Today the workers will do that much in one churning BEFORE BREAKFAST in the morning.

Telegraph Line

The construction of the first telegraph line from Winnipeg to Edmonton is a romantic item of history. Begun in 1874 by the Northwest Territories, a contract was let to Sifton, Fleming and Glass to construct from Winnipeg to Livingstone.

When about 40 miles out from Winnipeg, the workers were visited by a band of Indians who "In the name of the Great Mother" demanded all the provisions her servants had. The foreman prevailed upon them to return on the morrow to take up the question. In the meantime he wired Winnipeg, and a company of Militia in scarlet coats rode all night so as to be there when the Indians returned. It appeared to the redmen that the soldiers had come over the wire, so they concluded it was useless to contend with such magic. They promptly departed.

The line eventually reached Battleford and in 1877 was carried through to Hay Lakes. The Public Archives at Ottawa has furnished the writer with photostat copy of a map by surveyor Tyrrell, 1887, showing this line and the famous "Battleford Trail" through township 48 for most of the distance and passing to the north of Viking but a few miles. The original C.P.R. "location" also followed this line.

James McKernan had charge of the office at Hay Lakes, sending the first messages over the wire in November, 1877. Then Edmonton clamored for telegraphic service also. They offered to supply the material and labor to build the additional stretch of 30 miles, if the government would operate the office. Mr. Fuller offered free wire and other materials. The Hudson's Bay Company gave the poles and much labor. In 1879 the line was completed. (From this one would conclude that Hay Lakes was of more importance than Edmonton at that period!)

In 1879 the office was opened opposite the Fort. The tariff for ten words was \$3.00 to Winnipeg, and \$1.00 to Battleford.

The line was very difficult to maintain, on account of the poplar poles being burned by prairie fires, or broken by the buffalo using

them for scratching purposes, or the wires touching leaves when wet with rain or dew. Medical work was carried on from Battleford, the doctor there being often consulted free by wire, thus serving a large field.

Evidence of the old telegraph line has been presented by old insulators and wire found on the land of Collisson (Sec. 1-48-12), Jim Hoskins (24-48-11), Robert Sinclair (27-48-11), Clyde Hoskins (24-48-10).

This first telegraph line was transferred to the Department of Public Works at Ottawa in 1882. Then in 1886 the Department constructed a new line between Battleford and Edmonton, going north of the Saskatchewan River via Onion Lake, Frog Lake, Saddle Lake, Victoria (Pakan), Fort Saskatchewan, and to Edmonton. An office was opened in Fort Saskatchewan in December, 1886, and in Victoria in January, 1887. As work on this line started in August, construction must have been rapid, to permit this.

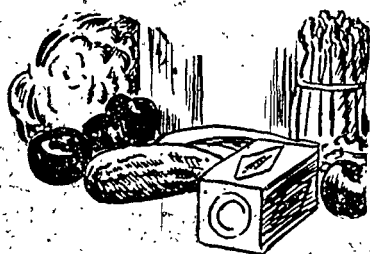
The author acknowledges the courtesy of F. G. Sims, General Superintendent of Dominion Telegraph Service, for certain of the above facts.

Site of Viking

The selection of the site for Viking was not fortunate. Ignoring the ideal high land south of the railway, the avaricious blundering realtors forced the sale of lots among the mess of sloughs on the

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north side. This has caused in the course of years an expense of thousands of dollars. Even today the stagnant pools of undrained odorous water serve as unsightly reminders of G.T.P. folly.

Years ago these sloughs were lakes, accommodating small boats. In winter, ice of two to three feet in thickness was cut for creamery refrigeration. Muskrats by the hundreds lived in comfort. Along came Alberta government engineers with large ideas and glib tongues. They persuaded the farmers and the village to allow them to construct a drainage ditch, with laterals, to drain these sloughs and several miles of farm lands as well, all into Lake Thomas. The cost was set at \$18,000, yet somehow turned out to exceed \$45,000 under government inefficiency. Owners in many cases could not pay the assessment levied, and in consequence were forced to hand over their land. The engineers, to cover the illegal act, had the Legislature pass protecting legislation. A glance at a map of the village and vicinity shows the seizures made by the Drainage Ditch as unduly large. True, most of the big sloughs were thus drained partly, but the results do not justify the outlay and the confiscations.

First Religious Services

The Catholics

The Catholics held their first service in 1903 at the farm home of J. C. Hennessy. It was St. Patrick's Day and the priest for this auspicious event was Father Bernier of Vegreville. A few months later a little church was built, "Mt. Carmel". Services were held there for some 34 years until a violent wind in July 1937 demolished it.

Wm. J. Collisson had the forethought in 1902 to secure from the government a plot of 40 acres for church purposes. This land is still owned by the church, the gas rights now proving desirable.

At Prague a chapel was erected in 1906. Then in 1911 by the united effort of the whole district the very fine church at Viking was erected under the supervision of the beloved Father Steinmetz.

The Lutherans

The Norwegian settlers who came in 1903 arranged with Rev. C. S. Vang to hold services on July 4, 1903, at the home of John Kringen. On July 6, 1904, as a result of a meeting at Carl O. Boraas' home, the congregation was organized and the name chosen, "The Golden Valley". Charter members were Carl Boraas, Gunder Boraas, Nels Haagenon, Ole Haagenon, Torstein T. Berg, Edward Benson, Gabriel Sorenson, Ole Sorenson, Otto B. Nordstrom, Carl Olson, John O. Lokken, John E. Kringen, Oluf Salverson, Oluf Kjelland, Sivert Hafso, Mrs. Aleta Olson.

Rev. C. S. Halverson was the first minister, followed by Rev. H. T. Egedahl in the fall of 1906; services being held in the Lake

Thomas School. On June 12th, 1909, the corner stone of the church at Viking was laid with appropriate ceremonies. This building burned February 19th, 1931, and a more commodious one was immediately erected. Other pastors who served this congregation were: Rev. A. E. Hanson, Rev. N. R. T. Braa, Rev. T. T. Boe, and I. G. Saugen.

The Methodists

In 1906 the Methodists held their first organized services in the Hilliker store in Harland. In 1908 a church was erected in Viking. As this was before the railway, the lumber was hauled from Killam by the pioneers in a co-operative spirit. The Baptists, under the enthusiasm of Austin McDougall and Amor Long, built in 1909 on Third Avenue. At the formation of the Community Church in 1918, this building was purchased and moved in 1926 to form the present United Church Hall. Through the courtesy of school trustees permitting services in the schools, a very wide area has been served by pastors of the Methodist and United Church.

The Community Church was a remarkable grouping of protestant denominations in a harmonious congregation. Its success had much to do with the formation of the United Church in 1925.

The Anglicans

Under Bishop Gray, the Anglicans held services in homes and schools throughout the district. More recently under Bishop Burgett

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a Parish Hall was erected in 1925 in Viking and in 1935 under the pastorate of Rev. T. J. Matthews an attractive church of "sixteenth century" design was built.

These activities of the various churches indicate the God-fearing attitude of the residents and the consequent high quality of citizenship of the Viking District.

Community Church

The formation of the Viking Community Church in 1918 was an event of much importance to the religious life of this village. A realization of the needless overlapping of protestant denominations caused an effort to be made to form a non-denominational church, where all might gather under one roof. The names of those prominent in the advanced enterprise are noted: Basil Hilliker, W. L. Campbell, Dr. G. E. Story, H. M. Hilliker, J. L. Dodds, H. B. Collier, C. G. Purvis, and Rev. T. F. Lund.

With the consummation of the Community Church, H C. Cooke (Anglican) was elected Chairman of the Board. This co-operative movement brought together members of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Anglican, Methodist, Congregational and Christian churches in a very happy religious family. This example of broadminded church fellowship created a great impression throughout the West and stands out as a pioneer movement for union.

Loss of Money

An incident in connection with one of the churches is very interesting.

In May, 1909, a cheque for \$600 arrived from Missionary headquarters in Toronto, to assist in construction of the church. The nearest bank was at Wainwright, at the time the end of steel. A young student preacher in company with F. W. Townsend, undertook to bring back the cash after Rev. Galloway of Sedgewick had secured same from the bank.

In a light democrat or buckboard, behind a pair of smart ponies away they went to Wainwright. The cash, mostly in small bills was handed over by Mr. Galloway, and carefully deposited in a small "grip", along with some personal funds. The grip was then placed on the floor of the rig at their feet, where they could watch it constantly. The Battle River, which now appears but a mere creek, was then a lively stream. Near the present railway bridge was the ford. In attempting to cross this the horses got into deep water, and with the rig were swept down stream. The men barely escaped with their lives. But in the confusion the grip with its precious contents floated off. Away it went, gaily sailing down the river. The men, on reaching the shore, frantically rushed along the rough wooded bank in pursuit. They were soon beaten in the unusual race, and without a boat they were utterly helpless. They dragged the river for some days. Later men were hired to patrol the stream and search. But to no avail.

The loss was a severe one to the parties concerned, though the bank thereby increased its wealth in not having to pay those "notes".

Indian Life

Settlers have found many relics of former Indian habitation. Hundreds of arrow heads have been picked up. T. Arthur Cox has a fine collection. A. Roland had spear-heads and arrow heads he greatly prized. Jas. Lawes has a number. Very interesting are the scores of "pemmican pestles", or stone hammers. Harry Cartwright, Them Kjar, Frank Rozmahel, Carl Boraas and a dozen others are among the lucky owners. Carl Stafford presented the writer with an excellent one, the battered ends testifying service. The squaw selected a small boulder, egg-shaped, five to eight inches long, and somehow cut a groove around it, thus enabling her to firmly fasten a forked stick or split willow as a handle. With this she pounded the "cured" lean meat of the buffalo to a powder, mixed in the rendered fat, together with dried berries, or saskatoons, and thus made pemmican. This would be packed in bags of skin, approximately 25 or 50 pounds and served as the staple diet of both the Indians and the whites in the early days. A few large stone hammers have been found. These were probably used to crush the bones of the hind legs of the buffalo, to obtain the considerable amount of marrow within. It appears that these large stones were not used as weapons.

The Viking Hotel

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Rev. R. J. Staley, the principal of the Indian Residential School (United Church) at Morley, assures the writer that the Indian warrior used a small stone about the size of an egg, covered with buckskin, and with a short whip handle so as to hang from the wrist. "It was a handy weapon for fighting with and the real purpose was to stun before the scalp was removed."

Here and there were remains of Indian "bath houses". C. G. Purvis and J. Lee Clinton tell of seeing many of these. Wm. McDonald noted one on his farm. Round about a shallow hole, the Indians built a small teepee of poles covered with skins. Heated stones placed in the hole and sprinkled with water produced the steam for the "Turkish" bath. Certain tribes of Indians looked with much favor upon the medicinal or therapeutic value of this bath. Possibly they even considered cleanliness and "B.O." as some writers intimate.

On the farm of Neil McEachern, 14 miles south of Viking, proof of "The last great fight between the Cree and the Blackfeet" came to light in an ancient musket. When pulling a large stump, 15-inch diameter, this 1840 weapon came up with the roots. Some distance away a powder-horn was found.

Indications of Indian encampments are presented today in circles of stones. The Indians made teepees of skins, sewed together and supported by poplar poles so as to form a cone open at the top. Around the circular bottom, boulders were used to hold down the surplus skin. In breaking camp these stones would naturally be rolled outward to form a slightly larger circle than that of the teepee. John Ruzicka tells of these circles of stones, to be seen today, on the shores of Iron Creek!

In the museum of the University of Alberta may be seen the very tent or teepee used by Poundmaker of Rebellion fame. From its sides hang three human scalps, as evidence of the "prowess" of this famous Chief. The hair is coarse, indicating Indian origin. (One hair appears equal to that of four or five of the white race.) To finger those scalps will surely send the shivers through any normal person, followed by a prayer of thankfulness that the ideals of the inhabitants of these prairies have changed in the last half century.

Curling

Viking was very young when the interest in Curling was shown by the erection of a covered rink on the Creamery slough. Back in 1911 this inexpensive shelter saw memorable games. For five winters this served very well. Then in 1916 the site was changed to solid ground just west of the present Taylor Garage. Wesley Collier surveyed the land and set the levels. A "Bee" was organized and a one-sheet rink constructed. The old-timers tell of some big games under that roof, notably one with the famous Trimble of Lacombe. Gasoline lamps provided very good illumination, albeit shadowy. This rink was used three years. In 1919 land was donated by H. B.

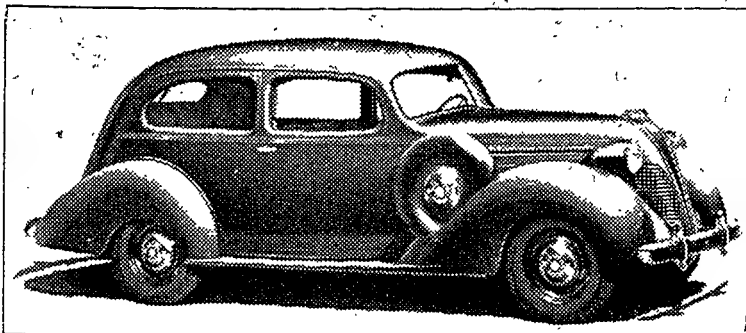
Collier for the present rink. Through liberal contributions of the citizens and the assistance of the village Council a \$4,000 structure was erected.

No game has ever equalled Curling for engaging so many men and women in active sport. Our players have won honors everywhere they have gone, carrying the spirit of goodwill to neighboring towns. Among the "old" boys we recall the names of Arthur "Curly" Omen, Angus Ross, W. McAthey, Amor Long, Sam Somersall, Walter Campbell, Bill Goodwin, Jack Slavik, Fred Ross, B. K. Jones, "Dad" Hummel, with Wes Collier, "Chief" Adams and Frank Venner coming along later. For years the Collier rink contested in Edmonton's 'Spiels but Jack Slavik holds all records for that annual event. From 1915 he attended every year until 1931, which he missed. Then with three bonspiels since, he has a total of 18. He brought three cups to Viking in that series of contests with the "Best in the West". His two sons are now on his rink.

Amor Long made fame by taking so much time in deciding what shot to try for. The big chap would bow his head, rest gently on his broom, and think and think, or appear to do that. Then with foot in hack and rock poised, he would often stop, walk all the way back to the rings and take a second slow survey, with more thought. Finally he could miss the shot just as easily as the fellow who shot with eyes shut. The curlers laugh heartily over Amor winning a game

Wm. H. Sheets

HUDSON AND
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in the Edmonton 'Spiel by these tactics, for his opponent Dr. Keillor became so flustered over the delays, he lost his skill. But Amor was a good curler and proved a popular sport.

At Edmonton in 1926, John Slavik made the highest score in "Points" curling, recorded up to that time. Considering the hundreds of expert curlers who had competed in this game, to hang up the record score of 46 points, was a remarkable feat. (The possible is 72).

Some Famous Viking Curlers



Fred Ross, Percy Finch, E. B. Hummel, A. Dahl



J. H. Callendar, C. G. Purvis, L. R. Coles, W. H. Collier

In 1910 the famous Ash Trophy was brought back from Camrose by two rinks: F. Venner, J. Slavik, F. Ross, H. B. Collier, and W. McAthey, A. Long, L. Kelly, P. Jardine.

The return trip via mixed train, Camrose to Killam, and livery from there is frozen in the minds of those curlers, for it was 40 below. The cost for cutter and sleigh for the eight men and rocks was \$20

for the 24-mile jaunt through the snowbanks. Money was plentiful then, so the price did not appear at the time too high.

Again in February, 1926, this big mug was brought to town. This time the loser was Manville. The Viking curlers were J. Slavik,



Angus Ross, C. G. Purvis, Syd Ross, Joe Sheets

The Viking News

"Your Home Town Paper"

Established 1913

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"The News" is now considered one of the leading weekly newspapers in the province.

From a hand press and hand set type we now have power presses and a type-setting machine, thus keeping pace with the march of time.

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F. Ross, H. Shulstad, P. E. Finch, on one rink and W. McAthey, A. Ross, H. G. Thunell, N. C. Graham on the second rink. Curling was at a peak of perfection that year, for Viking held six district and provincial cups. The Ash trophy remained here for a year, in the face of keen competition.

Viking has played "host" to the district in 1935-36-37 by conducting an Open Bonspiel. Slavik won the Grand Challenge in 1935, Edworthy of Holden in 1936 and Tofield in 1937.

Baseball

The first baseball team lined up in old Viking on July 4th, 1906. The opposing team from Hurry (now Bruce). Score, Viking 26; Hurry 11. The names of the team and their positions are given:

Catcher, J. C. Barker; Pitcher, Evan Jones; 1st base, Chas. Councilman; 2nd base, H. Stenberg; 3rd base, Claude Councilman; shortstop, Albin Stenberg; right field, Cris Wollen; center field, Ole Wollen; left field, Otto Lund.

In South Viking (Harland), or "Meighen", the following ball team won medals presented by McCullem and Peacock Hotel, in a tournament against Bruce and Irma on July 5th, 1909:

Catcher, Milton Clements; left field and pitcher, Frank Bentley; 1st base, Lorne Wright; 2nd base, Chas. Councilman; 3rd base, Claude Councilman; shortstop, Ray Councilman; right field, A. McLaren; center field, Vic Holbrook; pitcher and left field, Evan Jones.

Hockey

The first hockey team at Viking skated onto the ice in the positions here noted:

Goal, Dr. G. E. Story; Point, Tom Fraser (barber); Rover, Halstead (bank manager); Center, Lee Havens (farmer); Left Wing, J. S. Roddick (farmer); Forward, Pollard (R.N.W.M.P.), Right Wing, Bert Tovey (druggist); Sub., Geo. McNaughton (clerk).

In 1911 the names of the puck-chasers had changed slightly: Tom Fraser, Captain, J. S. Roddick, Joe Fortier, Roy Field, Vic Williams, C. G. Purvis and Lee Havens.

The most rabid hockey "fans" are recorded as Dr. Story, "Dad" Jones, W. McAthey and Lar Kelly.

Basketball

The first Basketball team, the famous group of girl ball-tossers of 1912, known as the Sunbeams:

Madge Hargrove, Hazel Grey (Mrs. A. McLaren); Bertha Horton (Mrs. Evan Jones); Orpha Hargrove; Anne Kundson; Manager W. J. Hargrové (teacher).

Later the Sunbeams under the management of H. G. Thunell scored some notable successes in competition with neighboring towns. Some of the outstanding players are recalled: Hazel Britton,

Hildred O'Leary, Mary Hoskins, Emma Horton, Anna Jones, Nora Watkins, Stella Hoines, and Minnie Sheets.

Tennis

The camera shows tennis players cavorting on prairie grass at Viking in the days when costumes were quite picturesque. The women had voluminous skirts and hats of frightful size and style, while the men were decked in christie hats and formal clothes.

The courts have seen a great improvement in a quarter century. Today Viking has two concrete courts which provide ideal facilities for tennis. For years the enthusiasts struggled to maintain a good playing surface with cinders. Finally in 1929 a concrete court was constructed. Under the supervision of H. B. Collier a great quantity of cinders was spread to the depth of four inches or more, and concrete poured over these. As this court has now survived eight winters and still appears perfect, the project was successful. In June, 1935, a second court was similarly made. Ole Ohman was the concrete expert in both cases. The total investment in the property represents over \$1,000. The quality of play developed through such superior courts has been such as to bring victory in most contests with neighboring towns.

Fish

Though most of the lakes here are brackish, being heavily charged with sodium sulphate, Camp Lake is quite fresh. Some years ago



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Swifts Silverleaf Brand PURE LARD

SWIFT CANADIAN CO. LIMITED

Chas. Broughton made an effort to catch a few fish and transfer them there. It was, however, in 1934 that a real attempt to stock the lake was undertaken. Then Kjar, after a lot of correspondence with the authorities, secured 253 perch at the Edmonton Exhibition. These were packed in large containers surrounded by ice. The Chamber of Commerce defrayed the expense of Bill Brown and truck to convey the load from the city to the lake. Percy Finch assisted in transferring the precious fish to the water. Only seven fish had died in transit, so that 246 entered the lake in good condition. The large number of shrimps and other good fish food gave promise of success. But the shallow lake permits ice to go to such a depth, that gases forming under this smother the fish. The lake was used constantly for watering cattle, so that air-holes were kept open. Also with ice-cutting operations for the Creamery, a large space was open, which should have supplied enough oxygen to keep the fish alive. While no dead fish have been seen, the crows and other carrion birds would account for that. So this worthy effort has apparently come to a sad end.

Hospital

The formation of the Municipal Hospital in 1921 was a notable event. The Hon. A. G. McKay as Minister of Health, was the prime mover. John Kringen, the Women's Institute and the Viking News ably supported the proposition. The Iverson Estate had already donated the land, so the location was settled. Much grumbling has been heard at so inconvenient a site, but some look favorably upon this very feature. This 14-bed hospital has every convenience, assuring patients of care equal to, or even better than, most city hospitals. The X-ray and other electrical appliances are of great assistance to the doctors in diagnosis and treatment.

This hospital has proven a great blessing to a large district, saving many lives and relieving untold suffering. Some \$37,000 in bonds were issued to cover the original outlay. There is now no outstanding debt. The upkeep is provided by an assessment upon each parcel of



land in the district, and a poll tax, the total for each individual appearing quite small.

In the days before the Hospital, Mrs. A. L. McDonald provided a "Maternity Home" in town, where many of our present citizens began their career. Her expert care of the wives of the pioneers is a feature of early days.

Mrs. Howard Hilliker

Among the pioneer women Mrs. Howard Hilliker is outstanding. A graduate nurse, her services were in great demand. With a slender stock of conveniences in the homes, and little medicine, it was necessary for her to be very resourceful in making use of what there was.

Her first winter here was the hard one of 1906-07. In rooms over the first Hilliker store (12 by 18) in Harland, she had to care for a boy of three and a babe in arms, while Howard struggled through snowdrifts back and forth from Minburn during that terrible winter. (On one such trip Mr. Hilliker required five days to get from Minburn to Harland.)

In the years before a doctor settled here, she did heroic work. Loughlin's Livery Barn held a patient at one time when all night this pioneer nurse struggled to prolong life, and won the fight.

During the 'Flu epidemic in 1918, Dr. Hotson and Mrs. Hilliker labored among the 200 or more afflicted. Nursing and a suitable diet were more effective than drugs against this disease. There were but two deaths, Mrs. Hoyem and Mrs. Foo.

The 'Flu recalls the extreme discomfort suffered even by those not down with the disease. Everyone was compelled to wear in public a mask. All the face below the eyes, was covered with a piece of cotton. Breathing behind this shield was stifling, while occasionally one did actually "chew the rag". It was a memorable sight. Those horrible masks made the public appear like a host of bandits, who moved with fear in the presence of the dread malady.

The Coldest Day

The winter of 1906-07 is noted as excelling all others for severity. Snow was unusually deep, dragging the winter far into summer. Trails were almost impassable and travel was difficult. However, for low temperatures February, 1936, may never again be equalled. The official record, by government thermometers of February 16th was 69 below zero. On February 11th it touched 44; on the 12th it was 51 and 51 again on the 13th. Then in a sort of cumulative effort it attained 55 below on the 14th, 63 on the 15 and 69 below on the 16th.

Extract from notes of H. B. Collier, official observer:

"It is a wonderful experience to feel and see such a temperature as 69 below. There is no perceptible movement of air. The frigid particles of atmosphere are lifeless, and appear to have fallen to earth, producing an arctic mist, a thin veil, which makes visibility limited to a few hundred yards. Around the chimneys of the hundred or so houses, the smoke lazily loafs. All is quiet as the grave. Every animal senses the awe of the situation and makes no sound. No dog barked this Sunday morning. In contrast the screech of feet on the snow was intensified, greatly magnifying the ordinary frost-crunching sounds."

Before this record-smashing temperature, the lowest reading on an official instrument was on January 27, 1929, with 52 below.

In contrast to this we note the hottest day on record as June 29th, 1937, when the mercury reached 98.5. The temperature of the night before was 54 and the night of the 29th it was 55, indicating comfortable sleeping temperatures, though the day was so hot.

The Victoria Meteorite

This wonderful meteorite was found in 1869, "On a hill near Iron Creek, about 150 miles south of Victoria", according to the records

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of Prof. Coleman, made fifty years ago. By the winding trails this distance corresponds with the claim made by Charles Whitford, that it was just south-west of Viking, at Iron Creek. He helped transfer

the heavenly body from there to Victoria (or Pakan) on the North Saskatchewan River. This meteorite should now more properly be named "Viking", to designate where found.

It weighed 386 lbs. Analysis: iron, 91.2 per cent (in the crystalline form peculiar to such meteorites); nickel, 8.3 per cent, and cobalt .49 per cent. Specific gravity, 7.884.

In color it resembles dark copper, some-

what akin to the skin of a bronzed Indian. The Indians saw in the markings of its surface the rough features of a face, and believed that the "Stone" attracted lightning, and had grown in size and weight since they first saw it. So it is no wonder that they looked upon this messenger from the skies as God. The Methodist missionary, McDougall, found it necessary to remove such an object of worship, and accordingly had it sent to Toronto. This "Viking" meteorite is priceless, for even \$25,000 would not purchase it today.

Schools

Lake Thomas was the first school district formed; then Cobourg and Cromer to the south. (The name Cromer was brought from England by Geo. Loades). The Viking organization was December 21st, 1908. Mrs. Eugene Clark was the first teacher and the trustees were E. B. Hummel, Irvin Britton and M. W. Clements. In 1909 a school 24 by 32 was built at a contract price of \$387. At the Annual Meeting on November 27th, 1909, the report showed 19 boys and 22 girls.

1909—Trustees: E. B. Hummel, Irvin Britton, M. W. Clements.

1910—Trustees: Dr. Story, E. B. Hummel, M. W. Clements.

1910—June, Trustees: B. Hilliker, W. Kelcey, Jas. Hennessy.

1911—Trustees: G. A. Loades, W. Kelcey, Jas. Hennessy. Mr. C. G. Purvis was teacher at \$75.00 per month, "salary to include janitor work." Mr. W. F. Hargrove followed Mr. Purvis.

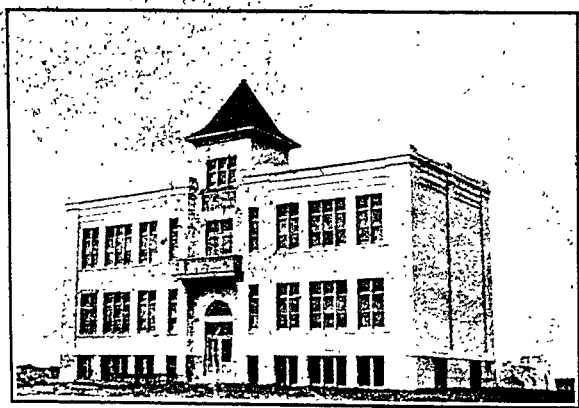
1913—Trustees: G. A. Loades, L. R. Dayton, Jas. Hennessy. Tender for new school was accepted for \$12,900 and for heating plant \$2,517. September, 1913, H. G. Thunell became secretary of the board. The name "Meighen" was changed to Viking.

1915—January, the new schoolhouse burns. Classes are held in the Baptist and Methodist churches. Trustees are W. G. Murray, L. R. Dayton, Jas. Hennessy. Wm. McAthey appointed secretary.

1916—Trustees: H. M. Hilliker, J. E. Ash and P. N. Kjosness.

1917—Teachers were R. J. Scott, Grace Hicks, Helen Howlett.

1918—School completed to four rooms. Teachers were W. McLeod, M. Bamsey, Elsie Heathcote, Grace Hicks.



The Combined Public and High School at Viking

1919—Trustees: J. L. Dodds, H. Hilliker, L. G. Stocum. Teachers were Edgar Smith, Ethel Humphrey and M. Bamsey.

1920—Miss Anna Hall became a teacher.

1921—Trustees: O. Fitzmaurice, J. L. Dodds and H. Hilliker.

1922—Teachers were H. L. Porter, Miss S. Gilbert.

1923—Trustees: Mrs. Stella Robinson, O. Fitzmaurice, J. L. Dodds.

1924—Trustees: Mrs. Stella Robinson, L. Wollen, J. L. Dodds.

1925—Trustees: Mrs. Jessie Collier, C. G. Purvis, L. Wollen. Teacher, Mrs. McLean.

1926 to 1932—Trustees: Mrs. Jessie Collier, C. G. Purvis, Lars Wollen.

1933-4—Trustees: Mrs. Jessie Collier, C. G. Purvis, G. A. Loades.

1935-6—Trustees: Sigurd Lefsrud, C. G. Purvis, G. A. Loades.

1937—Trustees: Sigurd Lefsrud, R. J. Darrah, G. A. Loades.

Village Council

On March 12th, 1909, the newly elected Council met. M. O. O'Donnell, Chairman; B. B. Gray; T. L. Thoresen; Secretary, Jas. A. Craig.

1910—January. A. E. McDougall, Chairman; E. Reishus; W. L. Campbell; Secretary, W. Kelcey.

1911—January. W. L. Campbell, Chairman; W. G. Murray, W. J. Collisson; Secretary, E. Reishus. In October, 1911, A. Streit elected in place of Mr. Murray.

1913—February. W. J. Collisson, Chairman; W. L. Campbell; A. Streit; Secretary, Ira Prichard. In August Lyman Waggoner was elected in place of A. Streit.

1915—Jas. Hennessy, Mayor; J. J. Skalitzy; P. N. Kjosness; Secretary, Jas. C. Barker.

1916—J. J. Skalitzy, Mayor; W. H. Sheets; P. N. Kjosness; Secretary, Jas. C. Barker.

1917—A. O. Omen, Mayor; J. L. Slavik; P. N. Kjosness; Secretary, Jas. C. Barker.

1918—W. L. Campbell, Mayor; B. Hilliker, L. R. Dayton; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1919—J. C. Hennessy, Mayor; W. L. Campbell; B. Hilliker; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1920—Same as 1919.

1921—J. C. Hennessy, Mayor; W. L. Campbell; L. R. Dayton; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1922—Same as 1921.

1923—W. L. Campbell, Mayor; N. C. Graham, H. G. Thunell; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1924—W. L. Campbell, Mayor; B. Hilliker, H. G. Thunell; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1925—H. G. Thunell, Mayor; B. Hilliker; L. Kelly; Secretary W. McAthey.

1926—Same as 1925.

1927—H. G. Thunell, Mayor; H. Rollans; L. Kelly; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1928—H. G. Thunell, Mayor; H. Rollans; H. M. Hilliker; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1929 to 1936—H. G. Thunell, Mayor; N. C. Graham; H. M. Hilliker; Secretary, W. McAthey.

1937—H. G. Thunell, Mayor; J. L. Slavik, H. M. Hilliker; Secretary, H. A. Meredith.



The Viking Band, July 1st, 1914—Standing: Basil Hilliker, (Bandmaster), J. Stowe, G. P. Lee, Len Lawes, A. Thorensen, Evan Jones, L. Gossman; Seated: F. Stowe, Earl Lawes, Syd Stowe, Lee Havens, T. W. Thompson, M. Clement.

Viking Band

A Band was started here before the town was born. Basil Hilliker organized this musical group in 1906. Among the early members were Charles, Ray and Claude Councilman, Fred Ross, Milton Clement, Tom Sorenson, Ole Benson, Tom Thoreson, Fred, Albin and Helmer Stenberg, Jack, Frank and Sydney Stowe, Even Jones, Jas. A. Craig, Lawrence Gossman, and Pete Reno.

On July 1st, 1908, the Viking Band was secured by the 300 workmen constructing the Wainwright or Battle River Bridge, to help them celebrate. Lee Clinton was one of the bridge-builders, and says each man put in \$1.00 while the engineers and foremen contributed probably as much as \$300 more. In three double-seated democrats the Band took a day to drive down. They gave a concert that night, played throughout the following day and occupied the third day returning to Viking over a long winding trail. The next year the Band was the main attraction at the Daysland and Killam celebrations. And throughout the years since, the Viking Band has been a prominent musical organization.

On countless occasions during the 25 years that Basil Hilliker directed the Band, Viking has been entertained. At the same time scores of boys received free instruction on the various instruments. Many of these pupils have since attained prominence in other bands and orchestras, and gratefully remember their instructor. Kenneth Hilliker has proven a very worthy successor to his father in leadership of band and orchestras.

The Viking Band attained such perfection as to warrant entry into competitions at Saskatoon and Edmonton, where they performed very creditably.

Newspaper

The very first copy of the first issue of a Viking newspaper is owned by Evan Jones. It is "The Gazette", dated April 28th, 1910. The editor was W. L. Phillips. The building and equipment was burned in January, 1912, in a fire which also destroyed the store of Hilliker Bros.

On May 16th, 1913, J. W. Johnston, from Fort Saskatchewan, started the Viking News. He acquired an assistant Henry G. Thunell. In June, 1914, this assistant became the new owner, and has been the editor ever since.

A newspaper is a mirror of the district. The Viking News through all these years has reflected the life with becoming fidelity, writing from week to week the history of the people, as the events took place. In the promotion of business and those enterprises which aimed to better the community, the News has taken a leading part.

Prior to 1916 the newspaper was printed by hand, producing plenty of muscle-building exercise for the one operating the heavy arm of the hand press. It is recalled that the editor, about that time, became quite famous in the boxing ring. A modern touch was given the press room by the installation of a large cylinder press operated by gasoline engine. Four years later, in October, 1920, another advance was made in the purchase of a linotype, thus placing the newspaper on a par with the city. Thereafter, printing each week from freshly molded type, assured perfect form to each letter, with this "new type". It also produced a far superior general appearance, placing the News in the foremost ranks of country newspapers.

In 1936 equipment was installed to manufacture "cuts" from paper molds or "mats", thus giving advertisers unusual service in illustrations.

The circulation of the Viking News covers Viking, Bruce, Phillips, Kinsella, Jarrow, Sedgewick, Innisfree and Killam districts.

Pig Art

At the approach of winter Bill killed a pig, and stood the carcass in the corner, behind the shop door. "I'll have bacon today" and he cut off what he needed for that. Next day, "I'll have ham today", and he cut from that portion. As the weeks went by, the animal took on a very fantastic shape as well as a shade of color akin to the stove. A score of people vouch for this. They saw it!

The Ladies' Aid Meeting

It was March 4th, 1908, when the Ladies' Aid of the Methodist Church met at the home of Mrs. Walter Jones. The sleighing was good and the prospect of a pleasant trip across Lake Thomas, a journey of five miles, appealed to a large number. John Councilman, Elmer Reid and Irving Britton, each drove a sleigh load. Dr. and Mrs. Story used their own horses and cutter. Archie Craig also had his own sleigh. The cold, clear frosty day saw in all about 40 gathered at the two-story log dwelling. The accommodation consisted of four rooms upstairs and three down, but all in the area of 19 by 24.

In preparation for the afternoon lunch, bread had been baked. Walter Jones had also just butchered several hogs. So there appeared to be ample provision for the crowd. However, about 4:30 it grew very dark and began to storm fiercely. Dr. Story and Mr. Craig decided to eat at once and leave with their passengers. Still some 35 remained. The warm fires and jolly conversation produced a pleasant atmosphere for those pioneer women. Then the storm became so furious with the fall of night, that it appeared too dangerous to attempt to return to town. So it was decided all should remain over night right where they were. The piano furnished music for hours of singing of familiar hymns and ballads. By nine o'clock the children were sleepy and put to bed. Later the older ones sought rest too. In their efforts to get a place for lying down, they had to

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The Oldest General Store in Viking

Built in 1909, and known for high quality merchandise, Ladies' and Gent's Ready-to-Wear, Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, etc.

When you have anything to trade in farm produce, you can always do better at this old established store.

roust out some of those who had been enjoying a sleep. Thus in relays the women slept or partly rested during the long night.

It was about 11:30 p.m. when there came a call for more wood for the stove. The boy, Percy Jones, was directed to don his overalls and get the wood from the big pile outside. Upstairs he went to change clothes, but soon returned aghast at the number of women occupying his bedroom. "Good land, I can't change up there. Every bed is full of women—four or five in each bed, lying crosswise." Poor Percy had to hie to the cellar to secure a little privacy.

Breakfast for the crowd required more than just thought. The supply of bread had almost vanished, so Mrs. Irving Britton made biscuits. The huge farm dishpan was used for mixing the dough. Eventually a hundred or more fine fat biscuits were produced. There was plenty of milk and cream and oodles of porridge, eggs and side meat from the porkers; so no one went hungry.

But the storm continued, and the Ladies' Aid simply had to stay for dinner too. Into the oven went the spare ribs from three hogs, as well as three backs, as a roast. Potatoes in abundance were made ready. Mrs. Will Hawthorne undertook to supply graham gems for dessert—and succeeded.

By three in the afternoon the storm was almost over, so preparations were made to leave. A heavy layer of straw was put in each sleigh box, and a tarpaulin thrown over the top. Into this "cave" the

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GENERAL REPAIRS — WELDING — SERVICE AT
ALL HOURS

JAS. TAYLOR

COLIN J. McFADYEN

women were packed along with a lighted lantern. The lantern gave a cheerful light as well as supplying a little heat. All this was very much appreciated by the women, for the "tail of the blizzard" was unpleasant. To assist the horses through the huge snowdrifts, Mr. Jones gave each driver a scoop shovel.

Thus ended the longest session of the Ladies' Aid on record, a full twenty-five hours. Needless to say the hostess never again extended an invitation to meet at her country home.

The Ox

The pioneers owe much to the labors of the ox. Slow, but generally reliable, these animals could travel great distances. Will McDonald made two round trips to Edmonton in 1904, some 500 miles, behind a yoke of oxen. Oxen found their own food during rest periods, thus proving valuable in low expenses for upkeep. The ox, however, was temperamental, especially when ploughing. "Heel" flies made him unruly. They simply set him crazy. And he would dash for water to get relief from the agony of their bites. Wm. A. Walker tells of such an incident: "James Hamilton had a pair of very large oxen, one of which stood fully six feet in height and weighed 2400 pounds. These great black giants were famous over all the district. We were doing road-work, ploughing with them, when I heard a great commotion and looked round to see them dashing for a slough. The plough was of course flopping along behind. They waded far into the slough until their backs were covered with water, and there they stood. Coaxing failed to bring these animals to dry land, so Hamilton had to doff his pants and go in after them, much to the merriment of the other men."

Frank Rozmahel also had an exciting time as a boy of 14. It was in 1910 when operating a yoke of oxen hauling a heavy roller on his grandad's farm beside Iron Creek. The "heel" fly caused a mad dash for the Creek, Frank hanging on to the seat for his life. Far out into the stream they went. And there sat the boy, perched on the seat of the roller just sticking out of the stream, helpless. It was a long half hour to wait until those oxen got another idea and moved to the shore.

The usual price for an ox was \$100, "with the harness". George Hoskins paid Cris Amundson \$400 for four good ones. After he had broken much land with these, he disposed of "Pat and Mike" to Edmonton meat packers. They proved to be the largest oxen ever sold there, weighing 4,825 pounds. Mr. Hoskins tells us that he had 12 oxen at one time, eight of which would each exceed a ton in weight!

Merton Canfield owned a big ox which became famous for its unusual color—blue! Charlie Sterns also had a giant, the village scale here showing it to be in excess of three thousand pounds.

The writer recalls a picturesque sight back in 1915, with Joe Swayne handling five abreast on the side of a hill. His skill with such

an outfit in the very difficult situation, seemed worthy of a place in a circus.

It was common to see an ox hitched to a stone-boat. Many people attended church by such a vehicle. An ox to a buggy was a fancy rig. A yoke of oxen hauling a wagon, or even an ox and a horse together, was an ordinary thing. One of the pioneers assures us that on July 1st, 1912, there were more oxen than horses on the streets of Viking.

Though in many parts of the world the "yoke" was and is a feature with oxen at work, it was not used here. Harness was the common practice, and usually accompanied the ox when sold.

The First Thresher

In 1904 five men, Nordstrom, Hagenson, Kringén, Lokken and Geo. Watson, combined to purchase a thresher. It was unique in that the power was provided by six teams of horses, operating a big "sweep". All the settlers stacked their grain, and then this machine visited each in turn. From 1904 to 1907 it covered a large territory of fully 80 square miles.

The First School

In building the first school, "Lake Thomas", in 1905, the farmers who assisted were allowed 50c per day. This was not in cash, but to be applied as credit on their taxes. Consequently the cost was held

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H. A. MEREDITH

to the minimum and taxes were very low. There was merely a \$500 debenture.

It was O. B. Nordstrom and John Kringen who drew the first loads of gravel from Lake Thomas. The lumber was hauled all the way from Wetaskiwin. Then in 1907 the school district was organized, and Miss Anna Ritland became the first teacher. (She married Hans Hanson in 1910). Wm. A. Walker has been a trustee of this school for some 18 years.

First Crops

On breaking land here it was the custom to sow oats at once to obtain a crop of green feed. Flax was not sown, except in rare cases. In keeping with a "Mixed Farming" district, oats was the favorite crop for many years. Possibly on account of so much water, the springs were late and wheat did not properly mature before the frosts came in the Fall. However, with the Great War, wheat rose from 40c a bushel to over \$2.00 and farmers made frantic efforts to break new land and grow this grain in abundance. Farming with tractors instead of horses, lessened the demand for oats. The change from oats to wheat is indicated by the railway shipments in 1935-36, when but 8,000 bushels of oats compared with 185,000 of wheat, left Viking station.

Railway shipments of grain are here given. The year includes to July 31st of the year following:

1924, 203 carloads, 281,000 bushels; 1925, 443 carloads, 613,000 bushels; 1926, 329 carloads, 444,000 bushels; 1927, 568 carloads, 777,000 bushels; 1928, 493 carloads, 685,000 bushels; 1929, 148 carloads, 200,000 bushels; 1930, 632 carloads, 841,000 bushels; 1931, 706 carloads, 1,001,000 bushels; 1932, 244 carloads, 374,000 bushels; 1933, 420 carloads, 634,000 bushels; 1934, 376 carloads, 565,000 bushels; 1935, 144 carloads, 193,000 bushels; 1936, 129 carloads, 181,000 bushels.

Shipments of livestock by railway:

Carloads: 1926, 137; 1927, 88; 1928, 79; 1929, 106; 1930, 30; 1931, 45; 1932, 50; 1933, 76; 1934, 72; 1935, 90; 1936, 143.

Vital Statistics

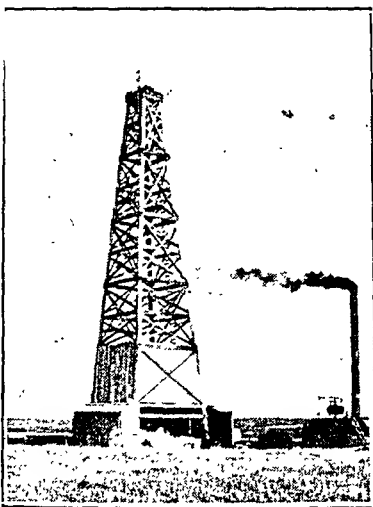
The official record of "Vital Statistics" for Viking district begins with events at the very start of the village. The first name in the book is Kenneth Hilliker, born August 11th, 1908. The second name is that of Alice Havens, born February 12th, 1909. Up to 1937, a total of 1,921 births, 323 marriages and 480 deaths, is interesting as an indication of the growth of the district.

Babies did not come in pairs until after the war, had been going a couple of years. Then Hoyem set a new style in May, 1916, when the stork left twins. Walter Stevens followed in August, 1916, with twin boys, and Catlin in October with twins. The year following, 1917, also saw three sets of twins, Willis, Hollar and Swift. Again in

1919 three pair are registered, Savage, Knutson and Rev. Chase. Later years brought similar renown to Mr. and Mrs. John Theaker.

The Copper

The copper, that one-cent coin which appears to be the badge of slavery to the financial interests, was almost unknown to Viking up to 1930. The five-cent piece, the nickel, had been the limit of small transactions during all the early days of this district. Though the people were poor, there was no need to carry in the purse, the copper, which seemed worth leaving behind in Eastern Canada and the States. The coming of the copper appears to mark the loss of the spirit of big-heartedness that formerly existed. The loss of markets for the farmer, together with the increased costs for machinery and necessities, and the added burdens of interest and taxes, may well be associated with the arrival of the copper coinage. While the eastern millionaires grew more wealthy through increased dividends and usury, we were given the "copper" as a token.



A towering framework is erected for drilling purposes. When the well is completed this "rig" is removed to the location of another prospective well.



The Mayor of Viking, the late Walter L. Campbell, shown turning the first sod in 1923, when gas came to the Village.

Gas

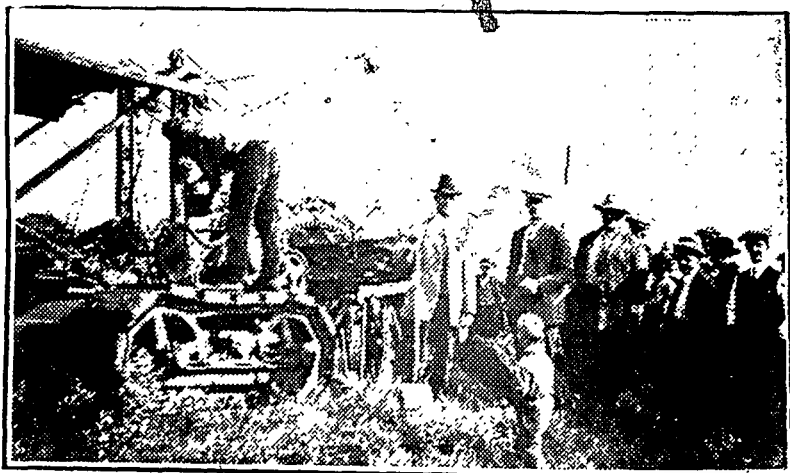
In 1914 the first gas well was drilled, thereby proving the forecast of geologists some 25 years previously. Eight more wells were drilled during the next few years. The funds for the first well were supplied by a group of progressive citizens of Edmonton. The franchise for the city was then secured on a basis of 25 cent gas. Due

to the War and consequent increase in construction costs the project could not be financed on this basis, and consequently no further move was made to develop the field until a higher rate was obtained. Then in 1923 more wells were drilled, and a pipeline constructed to Edmonton, as well as branches to Viking and towns along the line. Many farmers throughout the field also were served.

Up to 1937 some 26 wells have been drilled, the average depth being 2200 feet. Of these, 22 are "active" and capable of producing from two to ten million feet of gas per day each. The wells are so tied together and used in orderly rotation, that a minimum of disturbance follows even the heaviest demands of consumers.

The coming of gas to the district brought a comfort in homes unknown before. The great gas field became famous all over the world. The investments in wells and connecting lines of pipe represents an outlay of over a million dollars in the Viking field, while the line to Edmonton with the distributing system there, added further millions to the investment.

The Viking gas is non-poisonous. This "natural" gas has almost double the heating value of manufactured gas.



This mechanical giant dug trenches for the Gas distribution pipe, July, 1923. It proved a marvel for speed. In the picture you will note W. L. Campbell, Mr. Griffiths, Geo. Henseroth, N. C. Graham, J. H. Cartwright, Dr. Hotson and A. C. Wittman.

Wild Ducks

Wild fowl in countless thousands made this their summer home, nesting and rearing their offspring under ideal conditions. On the big sloughs near the present townsite, at least 100,000 ducks rested for the nights, at times during the Fall of the year. In season the birds



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Your Gas Company is proud of the important part it plays in transforming VIKING GAS into modern, automatic comfort, and transporting it to Alberta Homes. Year after year the facilities of this Company are being extended to make this modern fuel available to more and more people.

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GOOD PUBLIC SERVICE

provided the settlers with eggs, for at first there were no tame fowl here. And of course roast wild duck was ever a table delicacy.

Mushrooms and the giant puffball, under favorable climatic conditions, supplied a type of food, nutritious and delicious in the hands of the person who knew how to prepare these for the table.

Postal Service

The importance of Hay Lakes, fifty years ago, is shown by a contract that has recently come to light. Messrs. Leison & Scott received \$11,100 for hauling the mail between Calgary, Hay Lakes and Fort Saskatchewan, for the years 1884-1887. The distance was computed as 218 miles. This mail service from Calgary was due to the arrival of the C.P.R. in 1884. Another change brought about by the advent of the railway, was the price of flour. From \$16 it dropped to \$6.00.

Gold

In 1859 Dr. Hector of the Palliser Expedition, discovered gold in the Saskatchewan River, at Edmonton. In 1887 the official returns show \$2,100. In 1889 it was \$20,000. In 1896 it rose to \$55,000. In 1900 it dropped to \$5,000 but jumped to \$15,000 the next year. In 1914 it was \$992; and in 1927 \$868.

Travel

The march of civilization has been rapid here in Alberta. From walking, man advanced with the ox and the horse. The Indian added the "travois". Then came the Red River cart; followed by the railroad, the auto, truck, bus, and finally the aeroplane. This has required but half a century.

Buffalo

As an indication of the number of buffalo that formerly roamed the prairies, we note a statement by Isaac Cowie. He was an official of the H.B.C. at Qu'Appelle in 1860. He counted over 4,000 carts driving westward from Red River for the annual hunt of buffalo.

An average of 100 skins, would mean 400,000 animals slaughtered by these ruthless hunters.

Mr. Lars Wollen recalls a great mound of buffalo bones about one mile south of Lake Thomas. There must have been several hundred carcasses. These and hundreds of skulls elsewhere in the district have all disappeared.

This disappearance of bones which formerly dotted the prairie, has formed an interesting topic for discussion among old-timers. "You've noticed how cows chew on an old bone? The older and drier, the better they like it seemingly, for they can then crumble, and grind and absorb it. Range cattle have caused the old bones to vanish. Of course many were ploughed under." This explanation may be amazing to many, but is verified by good authority.



A Round-up of Buffalo at Wainwright, 50 miles from Viking. 1500 to 2,000 of these animals are disposed of each year, profitably. As many as 9,000 have been found to over-tax the accommodation.

Buffalo Trails

Even after sixty years, the pasture land shows the trails made by the millions of buffalo which frequented this district. Some of these show clearly the deep main path, with a fainter one on each side. The latter were worn by the buffalo calves travelling beside their mothers. Seeing these triple trails today, it is not difficult to conjure the vision of countless bison in procession through luxuriant grass. We need travel but fifty miles to Buffalo Park, where several thousand of these wild cattle of the plains are to be seen under ideal conditions. There the lordly bison are being preserved for posterity.

On the big rock east of Quinte, thousands of buffalo rubbed the rock to a fine polish. This is one of the "sights" of the district today.

Father Steinmetz

Father Steinmetz was one of the early citizens of Viking. Like most of the old-timers he was a character. He had been places and seen much. Born in Alsace-Lorraine, he spoke French and German as a natural heritage. Educated in his native town, he completed his studies in the classics at Metz. There also, at the White Fathers Seminary, he prepared for the African missions. In 1904 he was ordained as priest and went to Basutoland. There he remained until 1909, when the ravages of jungle fever forced him to leave Africa. The Spring of 1910 found him in Edmonton, under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Legal. He looked after the missions of Chauvin, Wainwright, Viking and Holden. In 1911 he came to Viking as resident

priest, and soon erected the present church. He served the Catholic people from 1911 to 1922, when he returned to France. His many friends will be glad to learn that he is still active, having a parish in Paris.

He was a familiar sight in the early days, and cut quite a figure as he drove rapidly hither and yon in his buggy and fleet horse "Bebe". His command of English was not perfect, but his zeal was unquestioned. He labored hard and untiringly for his people, and left as a heritage to his successor, a people warm in their religious fervor and highly devoted to their faith.

Collier Bros.

As early as 1907 Collier Bros. invested in Viking land. By 1915 they had acquired about 6,000 acres. Then they decided to dispose of their manufacturing interests in Ontario and "colonize". Elaborate booklets and maps were prepared and sent everywhere throughout the continent. "Wealth from Mixed Farming at Viking" was so appreciated that it was authorized as a text book on Agriculture in the schools of many states.

Settlers were secured for all the farms and assistance given by breaking some 2,000 acres, with fences etc. As at one time five tractors and ploughs were in operation, the outlay in preparing the farms amounted to many thousands of dollars.

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Interest and taxes on such a large block of land multiplied rapidly. Over \$15,000 taxes were paid to Lakeview, Collier Bros. being the third largest taxpayer in the district. (1st, C.P.R.; 2nd, Liverpool Land Co.; 3rd, Collier Bros.) Then with muddling by the bank, apparent success turned to partial failure and much of the land was lost to the mortgage company.

Starting the Ford agency in 1915 in partnership with the late Jas. C. Barker, scores of these cars were sold, together with other makes, tractors and farm machinery. They conducted one of the largest businesses in Viking for many years. The garage and service station, a commodious building of 6,000 square feet was purchased by Wm. J. Brown in 1932.

Big Farming

In 1913 a Company was formed by a group of Eastern men, to farm south-west of Viking. The capital was \$300,000. Some 12 sections of land were purchased at a reported price of over \$20 per acre. An equipment of machinery was shipped in, beyond any scale ever attempted before in Alberta. There were four huge Rumely Oil Pull 30-60 tractors. Also were noted four 10-bottom ploughs (priced at \$1200 each); and 20 eight-foot disc harrows; 10 seeders; and, strange as it may seem, ten binders before even an acre of land had been broken!

As the Company was mostly French, so were the employees. However, of the two dozen workmen, there were about six local boys who had some experience with tractors and machinery.

There followed some of the strangest operations in the history of farming. Breaker-ploughs, discs and seeders were hitched behind the tractor in procession, just like in "story" books. In the seeders was flax. This was all very fancy but not practical. Four sections, or parts of them were thus broken and seeded, even though the time was far into July. The crop was not good.

In consequence it required new methods and careful management to place the proposition on a reduced but profitable basis. The well-ordered farm of today bears a great contrast to the original attempt of a quarter century ago.

First Municipal Election

Elijah B. Hummel was the Returning Officer for the first election of Councillors for the newly formed village of Viking. As each man entered the room to vote a surprise greeted him. He laughed and continued to laugh as he returned to his place of business. The cause of all the merriment was the "ballot box". Of course there were no official "boxes" at that time. So Elijah selected for the purpose a bit of crockery from the store. From ancient times this "mug" has been associated with stormy weather and thunder. Little wonder then that as Elijah deposited the ballot ceremoniously in this receptacle, replacing the lid to conform with the "secrecy" of voting, the men appreciated the humor of the situation.

But the official did not count on any women voting. So there was a great stir when a couple of ladies put in their appearance to exercise their franchise in selecting the City Fathers. Deep blushes suffused the cheeks of the jokers as they sought to cover the "box" and alter the procedure. With this lull in the proceedings, the merriment continued throughout the day. And the Council was duly elected.

Lost at Night

In the early days travel by night was hazardous in this wooded country. Olaf Kjelland once made purchase of bacon at the Knepp store, and started for his home after dark. It was but one and a half miles away, yet he did not arrive until the next day. Without fences to guide him or a well-defined path, he lost his way. He piled a lot of brush over his bacon to protect it from prowling animals, and exhausted from his wanderings, lay down to spend the rest of a miserable night, until daylight.

New Buggy Destroyed

Roy Keller and Bill Goodwin drove out Quinte way in Bill's new buggy. It was a swanky vehicle, the pride of its owner. The horse was high spirited. All were in high spirits. A coyote suddenly appeared and the big wolf hounds dashed madly after their prey. The commotion was too much for the horse. He simply went wild, reared and kicked. When he finished his kicking the buggy was a wreck. Roy and Bill dejectedly walked home.

Losing the Corpse

The undertaker occasionally had difficulties of a peculiar nature. "Steve" was a willing helper, and on one occasion supplied a car and a makeshift trailer, to bring a corpse to town for the usual mortuary treatment. Somehow as they sped along the trailer became detached, for the road was very rough. The undertaker was shocked to hear Steve exclaim, "My God, where's Ole?" Back over the trail they went and recovered their trailer and strange cargo. They then proceeded at a more decorous pace.

Deacon the Santa

At the first Christmas entertainment in "Harland", Deacon Jones acted as the time-honored Saint. To give him the corpulent appearance the "Jolly old fellow" must have, a pillow was used. (In later years the Deacon grew his own "pillow"). In the course of proceedings, unfortunately, the bag of feathers dropped to the floor, causing discomfiture to the "Saint" but affording unbounded merriment to the audience.

"Rev." Barber

In many of the early religious gatherings, lay members of the congregation conducted the service. John Barber was one of these fine characters. He combined eloquence with extensive biblical

knowledge, and proved a most acceptable preacher. To assist in attaining a more dignified clerical appearance, he wore a white "dickey" over his black sateen shirt. One old-timer recalls the occasion when that "dickey", under the strain of eloquent gestures, moved around under one ear. It was just too much for the audience to withhold their smiles.

Racing Steer

Steve Jones had a big red steer that became famous for its speed. At a Killam celebration, this steer won a very unique race. Phipps of Strome, owning a fast mare, staked \$25 that he could give the Viking steer a handicap of "Ten jumps of the mare", and win in a race of a quarter-mile. As the steer had been trained to a quick start, it was off like lightning from the mark, winning the race easily, for it seemed to be as far ahead of the mare at the finish as at the start!

A steer race at the Viking sports in the early days, was a popular feature. A picture of Jack Stowe mounted on one of these "racers", shows the smile of a winning jockey.

Crowded Sleepers

Archie Coxford kept a stopping place on the Viking-Vegreville trail. Once when accommodation had already been filled to overflowing, Bill C. came along and begged room for himself and team.

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CHOW HON

Coxford said it was impossible. But resourceful Bill managed to squeeze his small horses into the henhouse, and likewise to find a place on the floor of the shack for himself. Rolling up in his blanket he crawled under the ash-shelf of the stove. This in another example of the elasticity of hospitality of pioneer days.

Loades' Painted Oxen

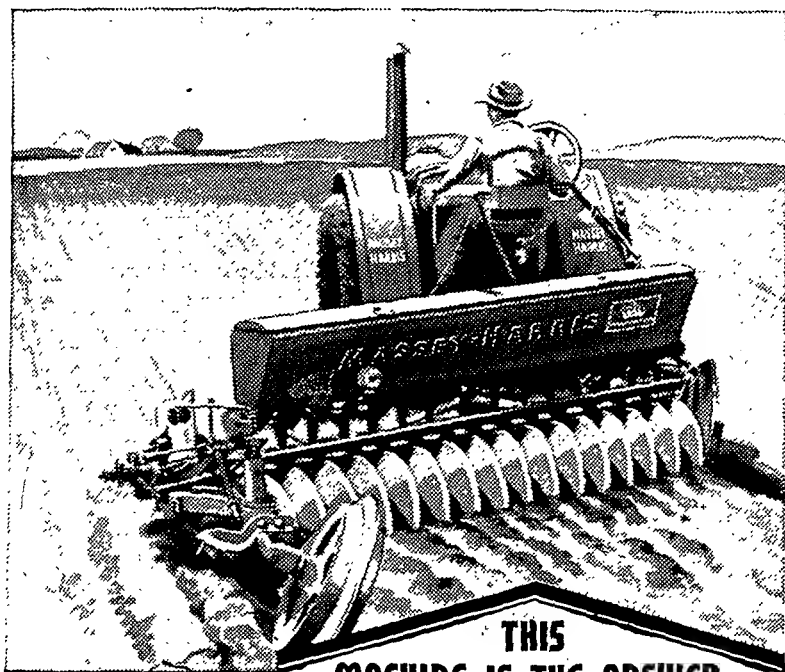
George came to town with wagon and oxen. At the tinshop he persuaded Pickard to hurry to the street with his soldering iron, only to learn that the oxen there needed no such repair. So the laugh was on Pickard the joker. To get even with George for this, Pick and Pat later untied the outfit from the hitching post and drove up Main Street to the old Murray building (now Comisarow). Chas. Stevens was painting this building, and was induced by the jokers to paint the oxen with the red and the green he was using. Besides decorating the oxen, upon the side of the wagon-box this sign was painted, "Bring all your leaks to Pickard and O'Grady." As they used good paint in those days, the joke on Loades lasted.

Following a Star

Will Payton bought a ham from Louis Knepp. He stayed at the store until long after dark, conversing. Then he frankly admitted he was afraid he could not find his way home. Mr. Knepp pointed to a certain star and told him to use that as his guide and he would get home all right. Payton kept his gaze so riveted on that star that when he came to a slough he refused to be diverted to go around it. He waded in, with the water eventually coming right up to his neck. But he held his meat high and managed to get across. On the other shore he floundered and stumbled in dodging some bushes, and lost his star. He was then helpless. He decided to stay right there, even though soaking wet. Placing the meat in the fork of a tree, he spent a miserable night, unable to sleep or even sit long in those wet clothes.

George Loades' Mail

With the super-abundance of water, it was quite a problem for settlers to even make the trip to the Post Office to get their mail. Once, in 1904, George Loades with a team and wagon (with a new box) made as direct a route as possible for the Knepp (Viking) P.O. The old creek, that ran between Tom Sorenson's and Ole Benson's, was in flood. George chose a likely looking place to ford it. It proved too deep for the horses and they had to swim. Off floated the new tight-bottom box, with George standing up in it like a Venetian boatman. He held on to the reins. The wagon, however, failed to come up properly under the box, upsetting the "boat". Getting nearly drowned, he had a further bad time struggling to replace the box on the gear, all by himself.



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Ask your neighbor about his Massey-Harris One-Way Disc. Ask your local Agent about it. He can tell you the experiences of those farmers who have found the Massey-Harris One-Way Disc method of doing their job to be the most effective and least costly yet devised.

Truly, as one prominent Western farmer has said, "Weeds, Dry Weather, Soil Blowing and High Production costs are licked with the Massey-Harris One-Way Disc".

Trapping Muskrats

Gilbert, Ole and Tom Sorenson, in an effort to add a few dollars to the scanty store, trapped muskrats in 1904. Ole was the cook and looked after things about the place one week while Tom and Gilbert trapped. Walking from trap to trap, they skinned while they walked, thus moving almost continuously. The big sloughs near town was the scene of their trapping and by the end of one week yielded 632. The buyer in those days later became the Hon. Geo. P. Smith. He paid 10c per pelt.

O'Leary's White Horse

Mike O'Leary had a white horse. One Hallowe'en it was transformed into a zebra, by the simple method of painting dark stripes. Those jokers at the tinshop were probably to blame. Though the humans all laughed, it is not recorded what the horse thought about the transformation.

Interesting Sights

At the east end of Lake Thomas are a number of "mud springs" or geysers, situated between the lake and a ridge of land rising 30 or 40 feet. This formed a natural trap for buffalo, which the Indians used to advantage. By gently herding the animals into this cul de sac, and then causing them to stampede, many of the animals were bound to step into those bottomless geysers, and thereby fall easy prey to the Redmen. Proof of use of these traps was seen in the quantity of buffalo bones nearby.

Nine miles east of Viking is a great rock, 14 or 15 feet in height. Undoubtedly this was carried there ages ago by a glacier, which brought it from the mountains several hundred miles away. The sides of this rock are polished by the rubbings of thousands of buffalo. The animals wore a trench of quite three feet in depth about this rock as they circled it in countless thousands. This "Buffalo rub" is the mecca of many visitors.

Remains of Cart

Andrew Maloney states that on Section 26-48-13 he has turned up insulators of the old telegraph line, as well as remains of old Red River carts. These carts were made almost entirely of wood, so that repairs could be effected anywhere. The only metal was the hub, where a narrow circle of iron allowed the axle to take the wear. As the wooden axle wore out a new one could be installed in short time, if a tree grew nearby. The fellows were of wood, with no metal protection. In a trip from Winnipeg to Edmonton, a cart would surely need patching on the way, possibly two or three "new" axles. The wheels often became very crazy in appearance through "patches" of whatever material came to hand.

Pick and Pat

They were the practical jokers of the town. Henry Pickard and Patrick O'Grady performed some remarkable stunts for the sake of

getting a laugh for themselves and an echo from their friends. They spent considerable money at the hotel bar, so selected the hotel for a Hallowe'en prank that lives vividly in the minds of every old-timer. Upon the roof of the hotel was a large sign. Somehow the jokers managed to get in position to paint this over and replace with neat lettering the significant characters "W.C.T.U.". Chas. Stevens assisting, it was not long before the manager, Peacock, blotted out those letters. Yet that blurred sign was for over twenty years to serve as a reminder of this joke. It was Wally Henton who then had a suitable sign repainted.

* * * * *

"Pick and Pat" once took advantage of a short absence of Mr. Peacock to do another stunt. When the manager returned from a trip to the country, he was informed that a lady of dazzling beauty had arrived from Toronto and awaited him in the upstairs parlor. Peacock, after a little primping, strutted hither, only to find a graceful pony prancing about the room. They whisper that George Loades knew the pony very well, and that Mars Dunnigan was in on that prank also.

Tar and Feathers

Jos. Wm. Martin, known as "Judge", was the first magistrate here. His love for liquor may have been responsible for a pompousness in the dispensation of law that caused his victims to conclude Justice was indeed blind. Resentment finally led to drastic action. The district was shocked to learn that one night the rowdies, after aiding the unfortunate man to a comatose condition, removed one half of his impressive moustache, and at the same time applied that obnoxious liquid, tar, and a quantity of chicken "fur". The same group of "jokers" were credited with this questionable affair.

Pig as Bedfellow

Pickard had a "helper" in the tinshop who indulged to excess. Once when the chap was quite overcome, Pick caught a pig, trussed him securely, put a "nightie" on him, and carefully laid him in bed beside the drunken fellow. Whether the joke produced just a laugh, or a worthy moral effect, is not recorded.

"High" Hamburg

Cris Amundson used oxen. One strayed and somehow climbed on the roof of a "bank barn". (The roof gently sloping from the top of a hill). The roof, made of poles and sod covered, allowed the heavy ox to break through and hang himself. The scene of this accident was some miles from home. When Cris finally located the animal it was very dead. He decided the only thing to do under the circumstances was to bury it. So with the help of the other farmer, a big hole was dug and the unfortunate beast buried. Now it was but a couple of days afterwards, the threshing machine pulled in to that very farm. Neighbors from near and far gathered to assist in threshing. And Cris was of course among the gang that obeyed the

dinner horn, and sat down at the long table. Everyone praised the "Hamburg" served. "Best I ever tasted"; "You are a good cook for a bachelor". Then Cris suggested, "It must have cost you a lot for meat for all this gang", and received this response, "Cost me? You paid plenty for this. Why, this is your ox!" Cris somehow did not relish that hamburg which had been made from his disinterred ox. Possibly there were further regrets when he learned that in the "resurrection" the hide had been removed and sold for \$5.00. Mr. Albert Dahl vouches for these facts, for he partook of that very animal.

The Hat

No hat in all the district has attained the fame of that owned by Gilbert Sorenson. At an original cost of \$7.50, this Christy hat was the most stylish head gear to be seen anywhere. Used only on gala occasions and receiving the best of care, years passed in numberless procession without seemingly any effect upon this well-built head piece. The oldest inhabitant will tell you that it arrived in Viking with Gilbert. Children have grown to adults, and parenthood, and a new generation born, and still the hat performs its duty with remarkable fidelity to its original owner. Much might be said of its ennobling qualities as evidenced by this very faithfulness. It is sufficient to say, "that was an aristocrat among hats."

Door-Stop

One of the pioneers recalls an odd door-stop. It had been in use for years at the shack of a bachelor. It was round, heavy and very black. A caller one day examined it very carefully, and finally pronounced it a plum pudding! The presence of currants aided him to this conclusion. The disclosure proved a shock to the bachelor, who had looked upon the "stone" as something akin to a meteorite, for he had picked it up out in the yard.

Wm. Kelly Sr.

William Kelly Sr. was a man who loved horses. His knowledge of veterinary procedure saved many an animal. William Walker tells of his successful treatment of five afflicted horses on his homestead back in 1912. They were good horses, worth \$300 each, so he was very grateful to Mr. Kelly. His good deeds are therefore stored in the memory of the old-timers. A story he frequently told is now always spoken of as that "of old-man Kelly". It dealt with the person who under any condition of sky or air attempted to forecast the weather here. The conclusion is thus stated: "Any person who attempts to tell the weather in Alberta is either a newcomer or a—damn fool!"

Mysteries

One of the mysteries of the early days was "what became of Moudy?" Mayo and Moudy were large landowners and farmed in a big way just west of Hans Hanson. Mayo was a bachelor living with

Mr. and Mrs. Moudy. There was plenty of money flowing at first, and an auto and large equipment of tractors and ploughs were purchased. One evening in 1911, Moudy was supposed to have driven into town and vanished. There was no stir and no fuss. But Mayo and the woman continued to live under the same roof. After a couple of years they moved over east of Camp Lake. The mysterious disappearance stirred wagging tongues. However, no clues remained to warrant investigation by the police.

Sam Schaus

Sam Schaus was the possessor of at least \$5,000, when he bought a section of land from Mr. Potter, Sec. 27-46-14. Hard times came to him, and he became blind. He had to be led about. Suddenly he disappeared. Without help he could not have gone far. So, wells were searched and every conceivable hole investigated. Not a trace was found of the tall amiable fellow we knew so well. Schaus had dabbled in moonshine latterly, and it was surmised a row over profits resulted in Sam being wiped out entirely. His partner left secretly for the States. Mr. Robert Ash sought to utilize the psychic powers of Prof. Gladstone who had located the body of a murdered man in Saskatchewan, which had been hidden in a manure pile some three years previously. So he conveyed the professor to the Schaus farm and gave him every assistance. However, as the suspected killer was not present, this master of Telepathy was unable to "read" the mind of the one that really knew where Sam's body had been put.

VIKING GARAGE

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Squaw-Wrestling

This was a favorite sport among a group of early settlers at Viking. Amor Long appears to have been an enthusiast, for with his weight and experience he was dubbed "champion". Angus Ross, though lighter in weight was very agile and strong, and proved a worthy opponent. Even "Tun" occasionally offered himself as a lamb for a sacrifice. The contestants would lie on their backs and use legs only in throwing the opponent.

Barnyard Golf

A sport that attained great popularity in the district was "Barnyard Golf" or horseshoes. Amor Long excited the natives by securing a set of regular shoes, designed purely for throwing. Among those who took an active part in the game were: Frank Venner, Angus Ross, Harold Sjulstad, John Slavik, Tom Hoskins, Jim Hennessy, Chief Adams, Herb Gares, Will Kelly and sons, H. G. Thunell.

For a long time the shoes and iron stakes were kept handy in Collier Bros' garage. And in a portion of that building the game was sometimes played during bad weather. As the enthusiasm increased, "pits" were made behind the drug store. Later on grounds were leased from the Railway and regulation pits constructed there, adjoining the tennis courts. Competition between towns was keen, Viking and Wainwright staging some real contests. On the program of Sports' Day at the fair grounds, horseshoes was a feature.

Bill's Writing

Mr. Collisson's writing was hard to read. He wrote Jim Newby and Jim simply could not do more than guess the import. The two met in town with Donald Downie standing by and who heard this: "Bill, you are a pretty good reader of writing; would you mind reading this letter for me?" Then Jim handed him the letter. Bill gazed at it, screwed his face to several angles and finally handed it back, saying: "Well, that fellow is an awful writer. I can't read that. It's got me beat!"

His writing caused a mild uproar in 1915. The village wanted a windmill for the town well. Bill tendered. Kjosness got the contract. Then Bill claimed his WRITTEN tender would prove his price lower. The Viking News had the letter photographed and reproduced in the paper. Bill claimed it showed plainly as \$70, though everybody thought it \$90. There was a big laugh.

The Free Laundry

The "open house" of the original settlers is proverbial, for free meals, lodging and assistance. But this was strained to the limit when John Maloney dropped in when Mrs. Court Gilpin was in the midst of the weekly wash. He said: "Would you mind doing my shirt too? I'll take it right off."

Jim Hennessy Wit

Jim is noted for his wit. Ever faithful to his Catholic Church he was constantly in attendance at mass. After a prolonged spell of

terrible weather, in which Jim had struggled through deep snow in sub-zero temperatures, and suffered great inconvenience, a Protestant offered him sympathy. "Say, it would be a devil of a joke on us if you fellows are right after all," said the witty Jim.

Jim met another old-timer, Mrs. A. L. McDonald, who was just as witty and bright as the undertaker. They crossed mental swords on the street. "Well, Jim, though I am poor, I have set aside \$—— for my funeral expenses." And the undertaker responded: "Well, what's the idea of you up walking around and me needing that money so badly?"

Bare Ground

John Maloney was "bumming" a ride with one of the pioneer preachers, who was on his way to Viking from Ranfurly in a sleigh in the Spring of the year. They came to a long bare stretch of ground, and the preacher, thinking to save the horses, suggested politely that one person in the sleigh was enough. Maloney spoke up promptly, "All right, I'll drive", and reached for the lines.

Mosquitoes

One old-timer claimed the mosquitoes were so thick once, that though he built a smudge-fire, he found it necessary to take a long stick and twirl it through the dense cloud of the insects so that a passage could be cleared for the smoke to ascend. (Rev. Fr. O'Neill reported that one).

In time the human becomes senseless to the operations of the mosquito. It was probably due to this that Edward Cotter, when advised by Pat Heeney: "There's a mosquito right on the end of your nose", responded "That chap has been there all day."

The Nyhus Cow

P. P. Nyhus owned a cow which he stabled in town. Bill Collisson owned a horse. One Hallowe'en the cow was placed in Bill's office and the horse was ushered into the stall in place of the cow. The next morning there was a great surprise for the two owners, and a big laugh for the citizens. Nyhus found the new "cow" was not what he wanted for milking purposes, while Bill did not appreciate the inconsiderate female occupying his small office. Ole Ohman received at the time "credit" for this stirring bit of transposition.

An Odd Container

Pickard took one of the "squirt" oil cans on his bench and filled it with the alcoholic liquid he loved so well. His aim evidently was to thus have a convenient, and secret supply. But the secret somehow leaked out, and he was amazed to see one of his customers successfully select that particular can and "lubricate" his palate with his private stock of "oil".

Chinese Chickens

Chief Adams cut a six-inch circular hole in the panel of the side door of the Collier Garage, for the purpose of observing customers

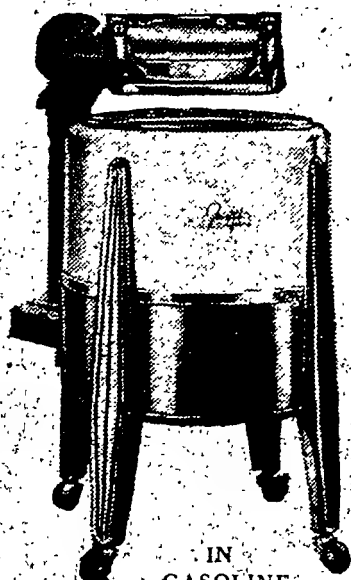
for gasoline at the pump outside. The hole was covered by a piece of plate glass which could be readily moved to one side. At Hallowe'en this hole served the boys too. They moved the whole flock of chickens from the Chinaman's henhouse, and poked them one by one through the aperture. Next morning when the Chief opened the office there was great commotion. He desired to shoö the chickens out quickly and be rid of his unwelcome guests. The Chinaman was on hand too, hopping about excitedly desirous of reclaiming his property, "Waitee, waitee, I catch them first!" Between the chatter of the chickens and the agitation of the humans, there was a memorable scene.

Fire With Music

Milton Clement handled the big bass horn in the band. He was practicing one day at noon, tooting away with a satisfied smile on his face when a neighbor rushed in to inform him that his barn was on fire. It was a situation that compared with the ancient one, "Nero fiddled while Rome burned". In this case Clement "horned" while his barn burned. However, he quit tooting and rushed out to try and save the barn.

Prairie Chicken for Dinner

Wm. J. Brickman with brothers Joe, Roger and sisters, came to live near Phillips in 1909. Will was left alone one Christmas to pre-



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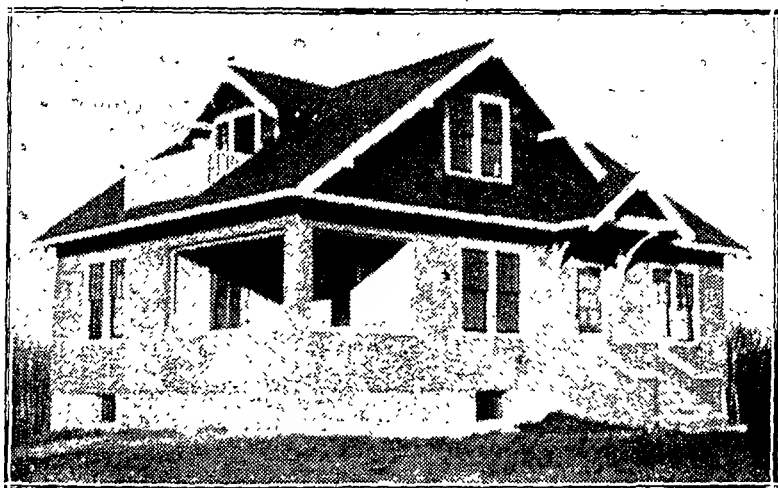
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pare his own dinner from the meagre supply in the shack. The prospect was a very light meal, when his ears caught the faint sound of a bird on the roof. Grabbing his gun, he quietly slid outside and extended an invitation to a prairie chicken there to come in and provide him with a delicious Christmas dinner. This looks like a modern version of "The Ravens feeding Elijah".



Commodious country residence of Reeve William A. Walker

Among the Prominent Men of the District, the Following Have Attained Honor Through Many Years of Faithful Service to the Public:

John Kringen

"A born leader, John Kringen was known as the "King of the Norwegians". He was a prime mover in locating the group at Viking and appeared to be the first in the building of the school and the church. In everything that seemed to be for the good of the community at large or for his people especially, he devoted his bright mind and boundless energy heartily. The Creamery owes much to him for his years of faithful service on the Board. To the Hospital he devotedly bent his energies in its consummation and the perfection of equipment. He was a firm believer in abstention from alcoholic liquors as beverage, and fearlessly co-operated to attain protecting legislation. He was a pillar in the Lutheran church, zealous in the construction of a fine building, with a good bell as well as other fine equipment. His rugged honesty made his name respected everywhere. There was no sham or mock heroics in his makeup. His leadership brought honor to this district; for wherever he went, he was the ambassador of good citizenship. John Kringen was an outstanding character, worthy of the honors he received while alive and now revered by those left behind.

William A. Walker

Here is a man who is known by his works. Some men attain prominence through securing much wealth. Though Mr. Walker has attained success as a farmer, he deserves honor for the time and energy he has devoted to the betterment of the community. To him as Reeve of Iron Creek and Jos. Swayne as Reeve of Lakeview, belongs most of the credit for the good roads in the country. Only those who saw in the early days the awful difficulties in hills, and boggy, stumpy land, can appreciate fully the great change in our transportation avenues. With vision he directed labors year after year, gradually developing to the perfection of today.

For 18 years he has been on the Board of Lake Thomas School. The Hospital Board has had the advantage of his guidance all these years. In his position as Reeve, he has proven worthy of the confidence of the ratepayers. His name will last in this district, for he deserves honor and prominence as one of the "Builders".

Joseph Swayne

Carl, Mike and Joe Swayne were all army men. Joe served in the Irish Constabulary for years. Coming from the land of the Shamrock possibly explains why Joe has attained such a reputation as a wit. His good nature, coupled with his training as a commander, suggests the reason for such success in co-operation, in the work of the Municipal District of Lakeview.

For 16 years Mr. Swayne was Reeve, and under his direction the wilderness was gradually transformed into orderly roads of good quality. He has thereby built a lasting monument, for he will long be remembered for this great service to the district.

As a member of the Catholic Church, he has performed his duties with ability and zeal. He possesses a large generous heart, and the poor and the needy have received many favors in consequence. "He is the soul of honor", said Wm. McDonald, a fellow councillor who has worked with him for years.

We take pleasure in honoring Mr. Joseph Swayne by thus including him in the list of prominent men of this district.

George A. Loades

One of the earliest of our pioneers, Geo. A. Loades has ever been a prominent figure. Arriving in 1904, he was appointed in 1905 a Justice of the Peace, a position he held for over 21 years. In the formation of the Cromer School, the very name was supplied by Mr. Loades from his home in England. In co-operation with John Kringen, he helped form the Iron Creek L.I.D., and he served as Reeve for six or seven years. He was Reeve at the time of that terrible winter of 1919-1920 when the shortage of feed caused untold loss to the district. Appeals for hay in Manitoba brought scandalous prices of \$50 and \$60 a ton for stuff that was profuse with weeds. Even then the local officials were able to dole out at times but one

bale of hay to a farmer who had 50 or 60 starving cattle to feed. The teams would line up in queue like a funeral procession, every man begging for hay for his animals. Iron Creek spent \$70,000; and Lakeview probably as much, in this harrowing situation.



George A. Loades

George A. Loades was a trustee (1913-1914) when the Viking School was built. Again in 1933 he was placed on the Board; and is still there. He has ever taken a keen interest in the Creamery and been on the Board of Directors since the start. He was elected President on the death of John Kringen in 1933. He was President of the Agricultural Society for years, thereby encouraging cleaner farms, improved stock, betterment of farm conditions, and interesting the children in farming in general. The Society still owns the 20 acres of land, holding it for recreation grounds for Viking.

Viking Fires

Viking has had the average number of fires for a village. A list of the buildings totally destroyed is given here. In between these "total" losses were many small fires. The fire equipment, even of the year 1937, consists of but two chemical engines, throwing less than a barrel of water each. Though these appear so inadequate, they have been applied so promptly by the volunteer fire brigade, that much loss has thereby been prevented.

1912, January—Hilliker Bros., Chinese Cafe, and the Printing Office. June—Loughlin's Livery.

1915, January—The new school burned.

1916, February—Waggoner Feed and Flour Mill.

1919—Chas. Broughton's Barn.

1922, May—Rev. Hanson house.

1924, October—L. R. Dayton house.

1929, May—Fred Ross' blacksmith shop. July—Reid's Livery Barn.

1930, November 29—Loades' Garage.

1931, February 19—Lutheran Church.

1932—School pump house. November 21—McDonald Flour Mill.

1935—King Edward Hotel, Runyon Pool Hall, Chinese Laundry, Royal Cafe, Graham Implement, Hardy Store, Laurie's Cafe, Dr. Haworth's Office, Dr. Richardson's Office.

Prominent Stock Breeders

Good farmers recognize the value of well-bred stock. Among those who have specialized in the endeavor to promote high quality, the following are noted:

William Taylor and John Theaker, Clyde horses; Hans S. Jensen, Belgian horses; Walter C. Bissell, Percheron horses and Hereford cattle. Sales of bulls at \$500 to \$1,000 attest his success; Steve Swift and brothers, Shorthorns, Berkshire and York pigs, and Sheep. Steve Swift has been showing in the prize ring since 1898. His animals have taken first prizes even in Toronto against the best in Ontario; David Maxwell, Running horses. His speedy ponies have been the attraction at most of the races in neighboring towns; Frank Rozmahel, Specializing in Seed Grain.

Wrong Use of Fire Extinguisher

Bill Sheets (a bachelor in 1913), was boarding at the Hotel. The village boys were planning some devilment, in which Bill did not wish to join. He went to his room, locked the door, and went to bed. He was not asleep when a heavy pounding on the door brought no response from within. A few minutes later, a fire extinguisher was thrust through the transom from the hall, and turned on. The stream of milky liquid caused Bill to duck under the bed for protection. The result of the liberal application of sulphuric acid and soda mixture to the bedclothes was their ruination, and the room was an awful mess. "Pick and Pat", together with Johnny Bonnell and Tom H—s, were credited with that prank.

Elevators

Viking has ample facilities for grain handling, with six elevators. In 1909 the Northern (Security) and the Searle (Atlas) located here. In 1913 the U. G. Growers, 1917 Bawlf, 1927 Pool and in 1932 Independent. The storage capacity of each is approximately:

Northern, 40,000; Searle (with annex) 50,000; U.G.G. (with annex), 55,000; Bawlf, 35,000; Pool, 45,000; Independent, 45,000.

The Independent and the U.G.G. are lighted and operated by electricity. The cost of current for this service is based on a pro rata of the bushels of grain handled. The other four elevators have large engines operating efficiently on Viking natural gas. This fuel is reliable and very economical. Gas is also used in all the offices for heating, assuring comfort for the managers and customers.

Visitors find a number of interesting features in these elevators. One may ascend to the roof in a few moments by using the "dumb waiter". Standing in this little hand elevator, you are transported quickly to the room at the roof. Here you behold the clever arrangement of conveyors, enabling the operator on the ground floor to control the flow of grain to any desired bin. A wonderful view of the town and country is obtained from this great height.

These elevators load a car with 1500³⁴ bushels in a short time. After the car is "coopered" (grain doors and paper applied), the 45

ton of wheat can be weighed and loaded in the short space of 30 or 40 minutes. Such speed permits the handling of a large quantity of grain in a limited period.

Rock Carvings

Two miles south of Phillips is Ribstone Hill. The elevation is reported as 2440 feet. This is the highest point for many a mile and served as a lookout for the squaws in locating buffalo even ten miles or more away. Upon this hill are two stones with unusual markings. On each is carved the backbone and ribs of a buffalo. Thus the name "rib-stone". There were three stones in the original group, but one of them has been stolen. As the large one weighs well over a ton, removal is unlikely. Ed. Whitford says these three stones were known to the Indians as "The Bull, The Cow and The Calf". Undoubtedly the carving was done by the laborious method of rubbing with a harder stone.

Upon this hill numerous beads, arrow points, etc. were found. About twenty years ago the writer and his family dug zealously with shovels, here, in an effort to unearth Indian relics. They turned this portion of Grant Thompson's farm "upside down".

In checking information regarding the height of Ribstone Hill, the following official altitudes are noted:

Viking 2267; Phillips 2297; Kinsella 2297; Jarow 2347; Wainwright 2222; Bruce 2240; Irma 2244; Tofield 2294; Ranfurly 2150; Manville 2050; Killam 2230; Sedgewick 2194; Strome 2270; Lavoy 2211; Vegreville 2082; Camrose 2443.

Good Water

A plentiful supply of good drinking water has been a very important factor in the Viking District. In the village the drill usually strikes water at 75 or 80 feet, but is drilled to 100 or 120 feet to produce a good well. One of the early wells is recalled by Jim Taylor. It was in 1911 when Archie Craig set up his drilling rig on the farm of Len Newby. He went down 127 feet, installed casing and pump, and next day pulled out leaving a good well. Of course all drilling is not so easy. Good water is obtainable at this average depth anywhere north of Viking, and at a lesser distance to the southwest. In a limited district immediately south of town five or six miles, difficulty has been found in locating good wells at 250 feet or more.

The water obtained from these wells is delightfully refreshing, the temperature being from 37 to 44 degrees. Even after a long spell of hot weather, the water emerges from the ground at this low temperature. Consequently farmers can provide suitable refrigeration facilities with very little effort, and assure freshness to dairy products as well as the preservation of meat, etc. The water is "soft", producing plenty of lather with soap, a feature that is much appreciated in laundry work, as well as by the tonsorial artist. There is a slight content of sodium sulphate, "Glauber Salt", which is considered by

medical authorities as very beneficial to the system of both humans and animals.

Fraternal Societies

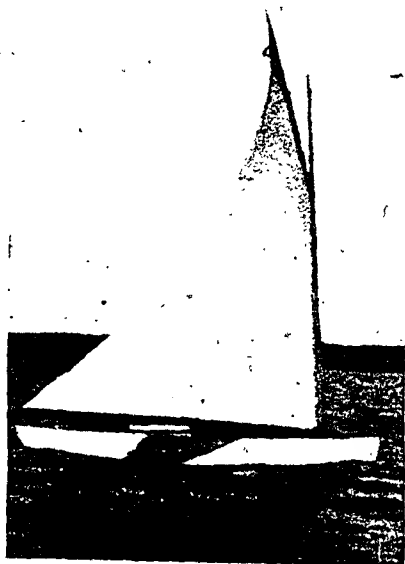
In 1912 a lodge of the Masonic order was formed in Viking. The name "Connaught" was chosen in honor of the Duke of Connaught, a member of the Royal family and Governor General of Canada at that time. This lodge has been active for a quarter of a century, and at present is in a flourishing condition.

In 1927 a lodge of Elks was instituted. Through the co-operation of the town and district, a "Community" Hall was built. This building is unusually commodious for a village, providing accommodation for cinema, amateur theatricals, public gatherings etc.

Lake Thomas Beach

Lake Thomas being within three miles of Viking, has ever been popular for its fine sandy beach, and for boating. Shortly after the arrival of Max Stenger, he placed the "Mary B" on the water, with the co-operation of W. B. Kelcey. A picture of this sailing boat shows the then athletic Max ready for a dive from the after deck, while McArthur (Merchants Bank) and Rilla Dayton and three others enjoy the sail. Tom Fraser is seen in another trim sailing boat. Howard Hilliker won fame as a master craftsman in boat building, for he constructed two good ones. Joe Robinson, Father Rockwood, Chas. Broughton and Dr. Haworth are noted as "sailors" in the years

following, even though the gasoline sometimes supplied the power. Another early picture shows Chas. Councilman and Mabel Hummel in a beautiful sailboat.



Rev. Fr. Rockwood in his sailing boat on Lake Thomas. An enthusiastic sailor

Bruce Collier and Forrest Long built a "punt", and installed side paddle-wheels operated by geared foot power. This unique craft attained considerable speed and was probably the forerunner of Bill Brown's auto engine powered "Popeye", which today recalls the Mississippi boats with their stern wheels.

The beach proved so popular, cottages were erected and the village leased the land to assure accommodation for all. Tables were constructed for the comfort of the picnickers, and bath houses built. The annual Methodist Sunday School always con-

responded with Civic Holiday, and the town joined in making the event at the Beach a great occasion.

Viking Community Library

The Community Library originated in the Young People's Society in the United Church in 1927. Those taking a leading part in this were: Rev. J. W. Bainbridge, Wm. D. McDougall, J. L. Small, Mabel Berg, Martha Gibbons, and Sigurd Lefsrud.

Donations were received from Women's Institute, The W.C.T.U., Masonic Lodge, Elks, United Church Auxiliary, Anglican W. I., Catholic Women's League, Lutheran L. A.; and many others; thus making the library truly a Community undertaking. Citizens were invited to donate books. The response was such that in a month's time 700 volumes were on the shelves. Then the library opened to the public on January 11th, 1928. In the meantime the growth has been healthy for today the Librarian, Miss Mabel Barker, has over 3,000 books under her care.

In 1929 the Village assumed control, with a separate Board in charge. One member of the Village Council is on this Board.

Such a flourishing library in a town this size, is unusual and excites much favorable comment by visitors. The appreciation of the Library is shown by the large patronage of both town and country folk.

The Great War

In 1914, at the start of the Great War, Viking and district promptly responded with volunteers. Throughout the four years of that conflict of nations, this district supplied its quota. Those who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their King and Country were, Lieut. W. B. F. Kelcey, M.C.; Privates Thos. Crawford, Alex. Stevenson, Geo. Brumley, Richard Cottrell, Andrew Dobbie, Jas. Farmer, Ted Brian, Louis Dobry.

In September, 1919, local veterans and ex-service men formed the first branch of the Great War Veterans Association. M. M. McLeod was elected president; P. A. Main, vice-president; R. F. Kelcey, secretary-treasurer; executive members, G. P. Lee, Geo. Ashwell, P. C. McPherson.

When the British Empire Service League was formed a few years later the Viking organization became known as the Viking Branch of the B.E.S.L., Canadian Legion. This ex-service men's association has carried on during the past eighteen years and has assisted many veterans in various ways as well as served as a social centre for returned men. They have taken a leading part in Armistice and Remembrance Day observance.

Officers of the Viking Branch for 1937 are: President, R. Dann; Secretary-Treasurer, J. H. McLellan; Executive Members, J. L. Clinton, Dave Scott and Ted Primett.

Boyd Gray

Boyd Gray took part in a most remarkable escape from a German prison camp. After enduring prison hardships from June 2nd, 1916,

to March 17th, 1917, he faced death rather than remain. He and a Russian, who could not speak English, but talked German fluently,

walked 40 miles from Duisburg to the city of Dusseldorf, where they boldly boarded a street car. This took them some four miles through the busy city and to a stop across the Rhine. By pretending to read a German newspaper helped in this audacious act. Then for six nights they walked 100 miles or more, (hiding and sleeping in the daytime), and arriving at the border of Holland. Here sentry boxes were but 25 feet apart. It looked impossible to get through. A heavy rain was providential, causing the Germans to seek shelter. Boyd and his companion crawled close and then dashed through unobserved. They even got through three lines of Dutch sentries. They were welcomed, given dry clothes and food and later sent on home.



Boyd Gray



The Late Capt. M. M. McLeod on His Return From Overseas.

Lieut. W. B. F. Kelcey, M.C., Prominent Viking Lawyer, who gave his life for his country.

No story of the Great War is more thrilling than the escape of this young Viking soldier.

Edgar Stowe, another Viking boy, also escaped from Germany in a similar manner in company with one who spoke the language fluently.

Taking the Place of An Ox

It was 1907 when A. C. Hamilton homesteaded, and 1909 that the family arrived from Belleville, Ont. A house was only partly built, for it lacked a roof. The next year, 1910, it was completed and then came a real house-warming in the good old style. A hundred or more came for the dance. Mr. and Mrs. George Hoskins and family arrived behind a yoke of oxen. When it was time to go home, only one ox could be found. The problem was solved by son Tom who picked up one end of the yoke and walked beside the ox! They made the four miles in good time too.

A Courting Swain

Lar Kelly had a little old pony and a disreputable buckboard, which while good enough for most purposes did not measure up to the requirements of a courting swain. So he hired a swanky turnout from the livery, and with his best girl, drove out to brother Bill's farm, eight miles north. This was too much for "Pick and Pat", who quietly substituted the ancient equipage for the hired outfit, and brought it back to town. The practical jokers evidently went to a lot of trouble, but they produced a laugh that is heard in echo to this day.

Halter on Man

"There is only one young man in this town fit to associate with" said a woman. This so roused the ire of the other young men that they assisted this poor fellow to consume inebriating liquids to a helpless condition. Then they put a halter on him, and tied the chap to the door-handle of the home of his admirer, rapped and disappeared into the darkness.

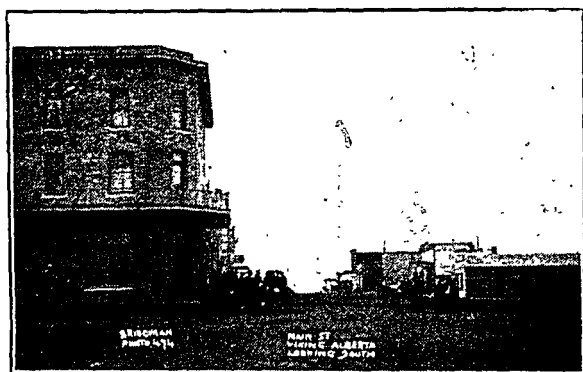
Threw His Boots Out the Window

Colonel Stewart was quite a character. He was one of several Viking people who escaped from the Maryland Hotel, in the fire of 1919. Aroused from deep sleep, he donned his trousers; then threw his grip and long boots out of the window. Grabbing the rest of his clothes in his arms he paddled barefoot down the halls and out into the cold snow. He had to mount a huge snow-covered pile of coal to recover the grip and boots. The bystanders got a big laugh over this large man with bared feet slipping and sliding on the side of that unstable mass of coal and snow.

Remember the Mule Race at the Fair?

Oscar Fitzmaurice supplied four big husky mules, for the four "jockeys". These were Col. Stewart, Deacon Jones, Amor Long and

Max Strange. Together they made half a ton of "Jockey", for each man was good for 250 pounds. "Fitz" was the starter and he knew how to rouse the ire of the mules. In consequence the big mule that bore Stewart suddenly stopped, upended himself and pitched the bulky rider to the ground. The half mile was covered in "slow motion", Deacon coming under the wire first, and Amor a close second. Max's mule bolted before the finish. It was an epic race.



Viking, 1912

The Main Street of Viking has undergone much change since this picture was taken. It is recorded that in 1912, "There were more oxen than horses on the streets of Viking". Today one may see instead, on occasion, a quarter million dollars in fine motor cars. The wooden sidewalks have been replaced by concrete. All the way from the station to the hospital, gravel has been laid, assuring a good road in any weather. Electric lights on all streets, make the town at night safe for pedestrians, and in conjunction with the police, a protection against marauders. The Main Street, with eight light standards of 300 watts each, presents a bright and attractive highway on the darkest night.

The hotel, shown in the foreground, disappeared in the disastrous fire of 1935. It has been replaced by a truly modern hostelry that is a credit to the town. So as other places of business rise from the ashes, improved buildings of fireproof construction are being built.

Today, Viking is fortunate in having a group of progressive merchants who serve the public faithfully in quality goods at competitive prices.

COMISAROW'S

for
Larger Variety
of
Better Merchandise
at
Lower Prices

THE CASH STORE

Phone 60

Viking

N. C. GRAHAM

*Hardware and I. H. C.
Implement Dealer*

Radios

Windmills

Washing Machines

The PIONEERS

We are proud to have had a part as pioneers of this district. Established in Viking in 1906, we occupy the premier position as the "Premier Store".

The confidence of this district, shown in 1906, and maintained during these 31 years, is reflected in the development of Viking and the constant increase in our business.

We thank you for your patronage, and through quality and service we hope to give continued satisfaction, and merit your good will and support.

LADIES' AND MEN'S READY-TO-WEAR

DRY GOODS

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"The Store of Satisfaction"

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